

Jordan Times

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Swiss minister holds talks in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Swiss Foreign Minister Pierre Aubert arrived here Monday and held talks with government leaders on Lebanon's civil war and the Arab-Israeli confrontation, Beirut Radio reported. Mr. Aubert flew via Cyprus from neighboring Syria after a three-day visit to Damascus. He was seen off at Damascus airport by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shar'aa. Mr. Aubert described his Syrian visit as "constructive." It included talks with President Hafez Al Assad, Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Kasseb and Mr. Shar'aa. "I want to stress the importance of an energetic Syrian role for achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," Mr. Aubert told reporters. "I listened carefully to the Syrian point of view with regard to various issues of the hour." A Lebanese army helicopter brought Mr. Aubert from Larnaca, Cyprus, to the Defence Ministry complex in suburban Yaze, east of Beirut, shortly after noon. He then drove to President Amin Gemayel's palace in nearby Baabda for talks with Mr. Gemayel, Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Pa

Sheikh Issa receives French message

BAHRAIN (R) — French special envoy Francois de Grossouvre arrived in Bahrain Monday and handed a message to the emir, Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, from President Francois Mitterrand, officials said. The French envoy flew here from Oman where he delivered a similar message to Sultan Qaboos. He has also visited Saudi Arabia and is expected to go to the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday.

Small Tehran bomb causes no damage

TEHRAN (R) — A small concussion bomb exploded Monday in one of Tehran's main squares, but there were no casualties or damage, the national news agency IRNA reported. A car bomb Monday killed 15 people and injured at least 50 when it went off during rush hour near the central market in south Tehran.

CIA denies role in Beirut blast

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) denied Monday reports that a CIA-trained group in Lebanon was responsible for a March 8 car-bombing incident in Beirut in which more than 80 persons were killed. The CIA "never conducted any training of Lebanese security forces related to the events described" in an article in Sunday's editions of the Washington Post, said CIA spokeswoman Patti Volt. "It also had no foreknowledge of the Lebanese counter-terrorist action mentioned in the article," she said. Senator Patrick Leahy, vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Sunday he was seeking more information about the Post report (See page 2).

Mubarak to visit Turkey tomorrow

ANKARA (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will begin a four-day official visit to Turkey on Wednesday, the Foreign Ministry announced Monday. Mr. Mubarak's visit, the first by an Egyptian president to Turkey, reflects the "friendly and developing relations" between the two countries, the announcement said.

Aime arrives in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Jean-Claude Aime arrived in Beirut Monday for talks expected to focus on Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon, due to be completed by June 1. Beirut Radio said he met the secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry, Fuad Al Turk, after arriving from the southern village of Naqura.

Egypt gets \$60m in U.S. aid

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Ministry of Planning and the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) Monday signed six agreements on U.S. finance for projects worth more than \$60 million. They cover urban health, rural services, technology transfer and manpower development schemes and the study of mineral, petroleum and water resources.

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Shultz leaves on upbeat note, but cites differences on peace approach

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AQABA — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz ended his Middle East tour here Monday, saying a clear divergence in views among parties involved in the Middle East conflict prevailed over how to move ahead with the peace process.

"There are clearly many differences between the present situation and the kind of stability and peace I think people involved want in the Middle East," Mr. Shultz said after intensive talks with His Majesty King Hussein. However, upon his arrival in Vienna, Mr. Shultz was quoted as saying he was encouraged by his three-nation trip to the Middle East and believed leaders in the region shared a desire to see movement in the long-stalled peace process.

One of the main obstacles cited by Mr. Shultz was the disagreement over the makeup of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to negotiate with the United States as a prelude to broader negotiations under an international umbrella.

"At some point, there will be a Jordanian-Palestinian group. We made some headway in solving

this problem," Mr. Shultz told a press conference before flying to Vienna. "It may be that different people will be needed for different purposes," he said.

Direct negotiations between Israel and a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation "must include Palestinians because Palestinians are the people who are very heavily involved. So, they must be represented in some way in a solution to the problem," Mr. Shultz said.

He said the question of how to form delegations to peace talks was one of the issues discussed with King Hussein. "When you come to the final moment, it is the names of people that count and I think we had a very positive discussion around this issue," he added.

Describing his discussions with the King as "very worthwhile," Mr. Shultz said the King had given the necessary elements of leadership to move the peace process forward. "We are trying to respond and help the process along," he added.

He said the purpose of his visit was to discuss the King's coming trip to Washington and to make it as fruitful as possible. But he declined to say whether a list of Palestinian representatives would be discussed with President Ronald Reagan during the visit, expected to take place later this month.

"We are struggling to find that composition of Palestinian representation in talks aimed at peace that can be seen both as genuinely representative of the Palestinians and acceptable in this process," he said.

The United States insists it would not negotiate with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) members until the organisation recognises Israel's right to exist.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said before Mr. Shultz's arrival that the Americans had been given the names of PLO-approved Palestinians for such a delegation and that he hoped Mr. Shultz would bring a reply.

"We didn't discuss a list or individual names or anything of that kind," Mr. Shultz said, "but I think it is clear that direct negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian delegation must include Palestinians."

U.S. officials have indicated they view members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) as not necessarily PLO members and might be included in talks. Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has left open the question whether his government might accept such figures as negotiators.

Meanwhile, senior PLO officials in Amman Monday denied any knowledge of a Jordanian proposal to declare a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation whose government would negotiate an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. They were responding to a statement made in Tunis Monday by Salah Khalaf, a member of the PLO Executive Committee.

In his statement to Reuters and Visnews, Mr. Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, contended that Jordan "is ready to announce the setting of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation whose government would negotiate an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories."

Commenting on the statement, a close aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said: "This is the first time I hear of such a Jordanian proposal. It definitely does not exist, and I wonder what Abu Iyad means by talking about such

(Continued on page 3)

U.S., Soviet ministers to discuss summit

VIENNA (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has talks here with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on Tuesday, ready to discuss a U.S.-Soviet summit despite a recent soaring in superpower relations.

The two men were travelling to Vienna for the 30th anniversary commemoration of the Austrian state treaty under which Soviet and Allied troops pulled out of Austria in 1955.

They last met in January when a slow thaw in strained relations between Washington and Moscow culminated in an agreement to resume nuclear arms negotiations in Geneva.

But in March, the killing of a U.S. army major by a Soviet sentry in East Germany brought charges of murder from U.S. officials, and last month the arms talks went into recess amid mutual recriminations over lack of progress.

Mr. Shultz has said he plans to raise the issue of the killing of Major Arthur Nicholson in his talks with Mr. Gromyko. The incident was followed by a meeting between senior military officers which Washington believed had produced a Soviet agreement not to permit a repetition.

But the Soviet Union later issued statements which appeared to justify the sentry's action and cast doubt on the supposed agreement. Washington responded angrily by expelling an assistant Soviet military attaché.

Although exchanges with Mr. Gromyko on the Nicholson case are expected to be sharp, Mr. Shultz has said he is ready to listen to suggestions on a time and place for a possible summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Reagan has made clear he is eager for a summit and recently eased his conditions for a meeting. Mr. Gorbachev is expected to travel to the United Nations in New York in the autumn.

Mr. Shultz wants to raise a wide range of topics in Tuesday's talks, hoping to begin what he calls a more constructive dialogue and reach agreements on some issues.

Mr. Reagan, in his speech to the European Parliament at Strasbourg last week, said: "I have directed the secretary of state to engage with the Soviet Union on an extended agenda of problem-solving."

Berri hints at pressure to force Gemayel out of office

BEIRUT (R) — Shi'ite militia leader Nabih Berri said Monday it was time one side emerged the victor from Lebanon's 10-year-old civil war and suggested pressure might force President Amin Gemayel out of office.

Speaking as militia clashes raged for a third week along Beirut's "green line," and similar fighting continued in the south, Mr. Berri said now there was a big chance to bring about many changes.

"We have to arrive at one who wins," Mr. Berri told a press conference.

"There is a big chance now, especially for the people, to change many things in Lebanon... I am fighting for a new Lebanon and I think Syria is supposed to help us," he added.

The "Lebanese Forces" militia has suffered major setbacks at the hands of combined Progressive Socialist Party and Amal forces since it was taken over on March

12 by hardline leaders declaring opposition to Syrian influence in Lebanon and national reconciliation.

Mr. Berri, allied with PSP leader Walid Junblatt and leftist forces, charged Mr. Gemayel with involvement in the takeover and called him the "effective leader" of the mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces".

He said the Maronite Christian president had failed to dissociate himself from the hardliners. "I think Amin Gemayel is drawing away from any evolution of the (Christian-dominated) regime in Lebanon. He is playing a game," he added.

"My friend Walid Junblatt thinks Amin Gemayel has another chance. I am not sure."

Like Mr. Junblatt, Mr. Berri rejected dialogue with the "Lebanese Forces" militia, despite its change of leadership last week.

Israelis say no casualties in explosion in settlement

TEL AVIV (AP) — A bomb exploded Monday outside an apartment building in the southern Israeli settlement of Kiryat Malachi, police said. There were no injuries or damages, police said. Police said the bomb was placed next to heating gas cylinders outside the building, but the gas was not ignited by the explosion.

Police detained about 30 Arabs from villages nearby and from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, but they were all released after questioning.

Craxi coalition takes early lead in regional elections

ROME (AP) — The Italian Communists, the nation's second largest political force, on Monday appeared headed for a setback in nationwide regional elections over the weekend, according to early projections.

An analysis of early returns also predicted a strong showing by the five parties of Socialist Premier Bettino Craxi's center-left coalition.

Dona, Italy's most authoritative polling organization, made the projection shortly after the polls closed at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT).

On the basis of returns from 263 of the nation's 82,711 polling stations, Dona predicted that the government parties — the Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals — would get 59.3 per

cent, up from 54.2 per cent in the 1984 European Parliament election and 56.2 per cent in the 1983 parliamentary elections.

The Communists were getting 28.4 per cent, down from 33 per cent in the European Parliament election, 31.2 per cent in the parliamentary election and 31.5 per cent in the last regional election.

The projections showed the Christian Democrats scoring nearly 35 per cent, up from 33 per cent last year, and Mr. Craxi's Socialists polling almost 14 per cent from 11.3 per cent last year.

Although the results of the weekend election do not affect the makeup in the national legislature, the voting had been seen as a test of strength of the major parties.

FBI says it foiled Sikh plot to kill Gandhi

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said Monday it has foiled a plot by Indian Sikhs to assassinate Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during his visit to the United States in June.

FBI Director William H. Webster, who said seven people have been arrested in connection with the plot, also announced that the terrorists planned to assassinate Bhajan Lal, chief minister of the north Indian state of Haryana, while he was visiting this country.

Mr. Webster said in his statement that the FBI "determined that a group of Sikhs were plotting the assassination of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal... and planning guerrilla-type operations against the government of India."

"In addition, they were plotting to assassinate Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India, during his pending visit to the U.S. in June 1985," Mr. Webster said in the statement.

He said an investigation of a group of Sikh terrorists "resulted in seven individuals being charged with a variety of offences," including conspiracy to possess and receive explosives.

Gandhi cites foreign hand in bombings, page 8

Moran supports Palestinian rights

CAIRO (R) — Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran said Monday his government supported the Palestinian position in insisting on a role in Middle East peace negotiations. "We have always backed the Palestinian rights and U.N. resolutions on the issue and we support Palestinian participation in any peace talks," he told reporters after meeting Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid. He described Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's proposals for a dialogue between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the United States as "very useful." Mr. Moran said that Spain, due to join the European Community next year, had friendly ties with all Arab countries. "We will increase our efforts within the EC to achieve stability and peace in the region," Mr. Abdul Meguid said, "we now have a new friend inside the European Community." He said he had explained to Mr. Moran the latest developments in the Middle East and the need to end the Iran-Iraq war.



U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz answers reporters' questions during a press conference he held in Aqaba Monday morning (Petra photo)

Joint team returns from China, describes talks as highly fruitful

AMMAN (JT) — A joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation headed by Yasser Arafat returned to Amman Monday after a visit to China and talks in Peking during which Chinese leaders pledged support for joint moves by Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for Middle East peace and endorsed the idea of an international conference on the region as a means to achieve a peace settlement.

Mr. Arafat told reporters upon arrival here that the delegation had "very successful and fruitful" talks with Chinese leaders.

"I obtained the Chinese leaders support for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian move," Mr. Arafat added in an arrival statement.

He said the Chinese leaders also "expressed their readiness to provide support at all international levels for the staging of an international peace conference."

During his stay in Jordan Mr. Arafat said he will confer with His Majesty King Hussein and other Jordanian officials to discuss the outcome of weekend talks between the King and visiting U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Rifai, Arafat review results of Peking talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Monday reviewed the outcome of talks the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation had with senior Chinese officials during a visit the delegation paid to Peking over the weekend. Mr. Rifai, who visited Mr. Arafat at the Guest Palace, and the PLO chairman also reviewed joint Jordan-PLO moves for Mideast peace in international as well as Arab levels.

The joint delegation included Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Hazem Nuseibeh. They met with Premier Zhao Ziyang and senior leader Deng Xiaoping.

The visit was part of an effort to secure support from the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council for a proposal by Jordan and the PLO for the convening of an international conference for settling the Palestinian problem.

"The Chinese leaders displayed deep understanding of Arab issues and appreciation of the Jordanian-Palestinian move, considering it as a step in the right direction," Mr. Majali said in a statement carried by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Majali said the Chinese leaders expressed support and encouragement for the joint move and this, he said, "increases hopes and optimism that the move will receive favourable response from different world powers."

The Chinese leaders asked the delegation to convey greetings to King Hussein, Mr. Majali said.

During the visit, he said, "we felt the deep Chinese appreciation and support for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat," and the delegation was deeply grateful for the hospitality accorded to its members during this visit. Mr. Majali said.

Milhem due in Moscow to join Qaddoumi in talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — PLO Executive Committee member Mohammad Milhem is due to leave for Moscow Tuesday to join Farouk Qaddoumi, head of the PLO Foreign Department, for talks with the Soviet leaders on the latest developments in the Middle East.

In a statement to the Jordan Times on Monday, Mr. Milhem said the Palestinian delegation's visit to the Soviet Union is part of the PLO's ongoing contacts with Soviet leaders on the Palestinian problem. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Qaddoumi arrived in Moscow Sunday on a visit, which sources quoted by the Qatari News Agency (QNA) said was in response to an invitation from Soviet leaders for talks.

The sources described the talks as highly significant, especially that they come amid increased

U.S. involvement in efforts for Mideast peace.

The sources told QNA in Tunis that Mr. Qaddoumi was expected to explain to the Soviet leaders the joint Jordanian-Palestinian move and peace efforts in the region that must take place within the framework of an international peace conference.

The sources added that Mr. Qaddoumi was expected to ask for "Soviet support to the PLO stance against the American and Israeli stand refusing to recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The sources expected Mr. Qaddoumi's talks in Moscow to result in "positive developments in relations between the Soviet Union and the PLO and cited the visit itself as an 'indicator of an improved Soviet understanding of the Palestinian stand.'"

Aliens break loose from transit camp in Lagos

LAGOS (R) — Tens of thousands of illegal aliens ordered out of Nigeria broke loose from a transit camp Monday and headed for the Nigeria-Benin border, eyewitnesses said.

Riot police stood by as a convoy of about 400 trucks, buses and cars left the camp near Lagos airport, and a policeman said they had no instructions to stop them.

Five kilometres down the road, police who tried to block the convoy had to move their vehicle aside when the deportees refused to halt, chanting "we are going by road" and raising clenched fists as they rolled by.

The aliens, many of them Ghanaians, were taken to the Lagos camp last weekend, and were told they would be repatriated by sea.

A month ago, Nigeria told an estimated 700,000 illegal immigrants, about half of them Gha-

naians, to leave by May 10 or legalise their status in Africa's most populous state.

Land borders, closed for a year to stop smuggling, reopened just over a week ago to let them out, but closed again when the deadline expired, stranding thousands at frontier posts.

The military government ordered the tired, hungry and often penniless aliens back to Lagos and said it would send them home by sea. Two ships laid on by the government left for Ghana Sunday.

But an angry mood built up at the camp, with the deportees insisting on going home by road to avoid the extra costs of sea travel.

Eyewitnesses said there were more clashes at the transit camp Monday morning as immigrants threw bottles and stones and police countered with teargas.

Pope bears of Dutch Catholic opposition to Rome

THE HAGUE (R) — Pope John Paul, whose visit to the Netherlands provoked a street battle in Utrecht Sunday, was told by the country's prime minister Monday that some Dutch people were uneasy if not suspicious at the mention of the word Rome.

Ruud Lubbers, greeting the pontiff at his office, praised the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church in the Netherlands during the Nazi occupation of 1940-45, saying it had strengthened Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

But Mr. Lubbers, himself a Catholic, added that Rome now seemed a very long way from the Hague.

"Indeed, to be quite frank, simply the word Rome makes some people uneasy if not downright suspicious," Mr. Lubbers said in clear reference to the doctrinal differences which have arisen between the Holy See and liberal Catholics in the Netherlands.

Visible opposition to the papal visit meanwhile spread to the Hague from Utrecht.

Police detained two men for throwing a smoke bomb near the Pope's car as it approached the prime minister's office and some demonstrators chanted "Pope Go Home" as the motorcade swept by.

The prime minister did not mention Sunday's clash between police and anti-papal demonstrators in which six people were injured and 14 arrested.

In his exchange of statements with the Pope, the texts of which were released after their meeting, Mr. Lubbers traced the religious and social beliefs he said had derived from Christianity.

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A rocket Monday hit Lebanon's central law courts complex on Beirut's "green line", starting a fire which destroyed all its legal records, security sources said.

Minister of Justice Nabih Berri, who head the Amal movement.

The village is 12 kilometres southeast of SLA positions near the

after the death in 1981 of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

OPEN DAY: Palestine National Council Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sa'eh (centre) Monday visits the United Nations Relief and Works Agency Vocational Training Centre in Wadi Seer (Petra photo)

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ased 'very soon'

The magazine said that in response to an inquiry by the U.S. State Department, earlier this year, Israel said it was un-

Diplomats end W. Sahara tour

Israel switches WHO region

Israeli police officer demoted for suspects' swimming party

There has been severe criticism in Israel of the unprecedented privileges enjoyed by some of the 27 defendants, who face charges including murder of Palestinians in a

Rashi also has criticised Judge Aharon Bazak, president of the three-judge panel, for adopting an openly sympathetic attitude towards some of the defendants.

Ambulance	193, 775111	Al Saboun pharmacy	836730
Amman downtown fire brigade	198	Alresh pharmacy	770910
First aid	630341	Alras pharmacy	661912
Blood bank	778303	Darwish pharmacy	625091
Civil Defence rescue	661111	Wadi Al Naser pharmacy	856196
Fire headquarters	6220903	Rawand pharmacy	662808
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777	Ghassan pharmacy	774497

	Total taxi	625021
	IRBID:	
	Dr. Abdul Majeed Sababheem	(—)
	Anas pharmacy	274964
	ZARQA:	

Malaise, J. Amman	636140	Jordan television	735111/19
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4	Radio Jordan	741111/19
Shmeisani Hospital	669131	Ministry of Tourism	642311
University Hospital	84584/65	Hotel complaints	666412
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9	Price complaints	661176
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37	Telephone Information	12
Al-Ahli, Abdali	666164/6	Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Al-Ju'ay, Al-Muasher	666164/6		

Italian, Al-Muhsireen	777101/3	Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Al-Bastir, J. Asrafieh	775111/26	Overseas calls	17
Army, Marka	891611/15	Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in l/s per kg.			
Apple	260 / 260	Marrow (large)	120 / 100
Banana	280 / 240	Marrow (small)	230 / 280
Banana (Mukammar)	240 / 210	Onion (dry)	100 / 80
		Onion (green)	100 / 80

Banana (Muskammar)	240 / 210	Onion (green)	120 / 100
Beans	180 / 150	Parsley	160 / 100
Broad beans	110 / 80	Peas	200 / 170
Cabbage	60 / 40	Peas (American)	680 / 540
Carrot (without leaves)	90 / 60	Pepper (sweet)	140 / 120
Cauliflower	130 / 100	Pepper (hot)	180 / 140
Cucumber (large)	80 / 60	Poppyseed	

Cucumber (small)	80 / 80	Potatoes	160 / 120
Eggplant (small)	130 / 100	Radishes	60 / 40
Eggplant (large)	90 / 60	Spinach	120 / 100
Eggplant (small)	90 / 60	Tomatoes	120 / 80
Garlic	340 / 300	Vine leaves	300 / 240
Grapefruit	180 / 150	Apricots	500 / 400
Lemon	170 / 130	Sweet melon	300 / 160

Mallow	320 / 280	Sweet melon	300 / 250
		Water melon	200 / 170

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Indian Charge d'Affaires Gurbachan S. Bhadia told the As-

Fighting has raged along the line, which splits mostly Christian

The shadowy Islamic Jihad org-

***The kidnap victims are: U.S.: embassy political officer William Buckley, 56, kidnapped on March**

French embassy, and Marcel Carton, 62, protocol officer at the embassy. Both were kidnapped on March 22.

the case with South Africa where the white minority regime has fought all international moves

Tuesday and the second when he allowed them to go for a swim in the Mediterranean Sea last Thursday.

Anatol Bazak, president of the three-judge panel, for adopting an openly sympathetic attitude towards some of the defendants.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE	TODAY'S EVENT	CULTURAL CENTRES	QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	MARITIME TRAFFIC	EMERGENCIES	NIGHT DUTY
Tel: 773111-19	639, 720, 1413 KHz						
MAIN CHANNEL	07:00 Newsday 07:30 The Classical Guitar 07:45 Financial News 07:55 Reflections 08:00 World News 08:09 24 Hours News Summary 08:30 Ideas 08:40 Book Choice 08:45 The Today Book 09:00 Newsday 09:30 Rock Salad 10:00 World News 10:09 24 Hours News Summary 10:30 24						

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ra'd visits agricultural company

AMMAN (Petra) — His Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, the Chief Chamberlain, Monday visited the Jordanian Company for the Marketing and Processing of Agricultural Products where he conferred with the company's chairman Mr. Marwan Dudin. The two discussed the company's efforts to export and market the company's products, especially tomato paste.

Muasher discusses trade ties with Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply, Raja'i Muasher Monday met with Iraqi Ambassador to Amman Ibrahim Sultan. During their meeting, the minister and the ambassador discussed trade and economy ties between the two countries as well as means to bolster and develop the existing cooperation between Jordan and Iraq.

Nsour receives French, Omani envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour Monday received French Ambassador to Amman Jacques De Sedouy and Omani Ambassador to Amman Abdullah Said Abdullah in separate meetings. Both meetings came on the occasion of the two ambassadors ending their term of office in Jordan.

Arab experts to discuss software today

AMMAN (Petra) — The meetings of the Arab Committee on the use of Arabic letters in computers will start Tuesday in Damascus. The meetings will be attended by representatives of the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (ASMO), the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO), the Arab Telecommunication Union (ATU) and the European Computer Manufacturers Association (ECMA).

Fire committee opens insurance talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Insurance Union Fire Committee opened a meeting in Amman Monday to discuss the application of a unified Arab agreement on fire insurance and preparations for a unified Arab insurance system against burglaries during fire. Delegates from Jordan, Syria, Tunisia, Algeria, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Qatar, North and South Yemen are taking part in the three-day meeting. The delegates will also discuss ways of handling insurance against fires resulting from earthquakes, storms and ways of protecting property against fire.

Lawyers to take 6-week summer break

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian lawyers will enjoy a six-week summer leave between July 15 and August 31, according to a decision taken by Minister of Justice Riyadh Shaka'a. The decision, which was circulated to regular courts in the country, is in response to a request made by the Jordanian Bar Association.

Secretaries celebrate their day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab and foreign diplomatic corps and their secretaries Sunday gathered at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel to celebrate International Secretaries Day. The hotel's administration distributed token prizes and awards to the secretaries. A beauty specialist from Paris lectured on the importance of beauty products and distributed cosmetics to the secretaries.

Art exhibition postponed

AMMAN (Petra) — A plastic art exhibition by artist Mohammad Rafiq Laham, the acting director general of the Tourism Authority, which was scheduled to start Tuesday at the Royal Cultural Centre has been postponed indefinitely.



ACTIVITIES DAY — Her Highness Princess Sarvath Monday presents prizes to children taking part in a festival and activities day organised by the Young Women's Muslim Association and local societies for the handicapped. (Petra photo)

Husseini, Dutch official review cooperation in postal affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Communications Mohyeddin Al Husseini conferred in his office Monday with visiting director of postal, cable and telephone services in Holland. They made a comprehensive review of cooperation between the two countries in communications and also discussed the development of postal and telecommunications services in Jordan.

The Dutch visitor expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with Jordan in postal and telephone services and the exchange of expertise in this field.

The meeting was attended by the under secretary of the Ministry of Communications, the director general of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) and the director of the Post Office Savings Fund.

Later, official talks were held between the visiting Dutch official and the under secretary of the ministry of communications. The two sides reviewed cooperation between the two countries and decided on practical steps to be taken to speed up the dispatch of mail.

They also agreed to prepare a detailed programme for the exchange of expertise on a regular basis and to offer training courses in Holland to Jordanians. They agreed to exchange views on issuing postage stamps for both countries and to hold exhibitions of Jordanian and Dutch stamps in Jordan and Holland. The Dutch official arrived in Amman Sunday on a visit expected to last several days.

Seminar tackles link between Arab public, scientific research

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on preparing Arab citizens for science and scientific research was opened in Amman Monday. A total of 15 working papers are to be reviewed during the four-day seminar which was organised jointly by the Arab Unity Studies Centre and the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

Addressing the opening session, the foundation's chairman Mr. Abdul Majid Shoman reviewed the development of the foundation over the past five years and its activities to support Arab scientific research in various fields and also pure and applied sciences.

He said that the foundation started its operations by opening a public library in Amman to enrich local citizens' knowledge by providing books, references and scientific periodicals.

The foundation has assigned 10 annual prizes each worth JD 3,000 and a certificate of recognition for those who produce original scientific work and those who show creativeness in scientific fields.

This seminar, he said, is designed to identify the social, economic and educational obstacles which impede Arab researchers' work in various scientific fields with the purpose of overcoming these obstacles.

Another speaker at the opening session was Dr. Kheiraddin Hassib, director of the studies centre, who outlined the achievements of his centre over the past eight years.

Through seminars and studies the centre tries by every means to help the Arab nation to achieve progress, Dr. Hassib said. The participants will discuss the role of science in development in the Arab World the role of institutions in promoting scientific research and other related topics.

Presidents of the Jordanian universities and some of their staff members and intellectuals are taking part in the seminar.

Ministry receives six bids for radio transmission project

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Af Hawamdeh Monday announced that the ministry has received financial and technical bids from six specialised world companies for the execution of a radio transmission project. If it is awarded, the JD 15 million tender will be carried out with the participation of local contractors who will construct the civil works part of the tender.

The projects include setting up a new transmission station in Qasr Al Kharranah to cover Saudi Arabia, some Gulf States and some areas in Pakistan, Europe, Africa and Canada. It also entails erecting microwave equipment between the studios of Radio Jordan in Amman and the new station, in addition to improving the transmission station in Ajloun.

Also Monday Mr. Hawamdeh met with British Ambassador to Amman Arthur John Coles. During their meeting, they discussed cooperation between Britain and Jordan in the fields of technical expertise.

and also for textile workers operating looms. The exposure to noise does not need to be on a daily basis for the effects to be damaging.

Studies have been made on the relationship between the character of noise, level of noise, numbers of hours per day of exposure and the number of years that workers in various occupations have been exposed to noise on the job.

Moreover, various medical studies also proved that noise, pollution causes psychological and emotional stress which is difficult to measure. Noise pollution can bring on the typical stress reactions as a result of change in critical, hormone level, involuntary muscle contraction, increased irritability and fatigue, high blood pressure, heart disease and neurotic tendencies.

Noise control methods

Noise control measures are applied within the work area in most of the industrialised countries. The simplest way to avoid the ill effect of noise is to block the reception of unwanted sound by wearing ear plugs. At busy airports ground crew wear ear muffs as protection from the noise of jets.

Another method used to minimise the effect of noise is to use sound absorbing or sound proofing materials immediately surrounding the noise-producing source or in construction. "There are more direct solutions to the noise problem which involve preventing or abating noise at the source," Mr. Al Hassan said. Such solutions, he continued, include redesigning the vehicle engines to make them quieter, installing mufflers in existing engines and redesigning machinery for tyre treads. However, these techniques are not utilised in most of the industrialised countries because they are too expensive.

"It is important to emphasise that the only remedy for the problem of community noise pollution is to issue legislations which make engineering solutions to the noise problem mandatory," Mr. Al Hassan concluded.

Ports Corporation awards \$20m oil terminal tender

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Aqaba-based Jordanian Ports Corporation is in the process of setting up a special terminal for loading and discharging crude oil. The pier, expected to cost \$20,750,000, is scheduled to be operational within two months, Ports Corporation Director General Mardi Qatameen said Monday.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Qatameen said that the tender for constructing and running the terminal was secured by an internationally well-known company, Sosema Matex, out of five bids submitted by international and local companies.

Mr. Qatameen said the cost of the terminal would be paid gradually by allocating an agreed percentage from the export fees. This percentage would be paid to the operating company for a two-year duration, he added.

Speaking of the terminal, Mr. Qatameen said that it consists of a

tankers. However, when the terminal is operational these trucks will discharge their loads on board the fuel tanker and then the terminal will load fuel tankers automatically.

Mr. Qatameen said that the consortium which secured the tender is expected to export between seven and ten thousand tons of fuel and fuel derivatives per day for the coming two years.

A Brazilian company earlier signed a contract with a local company to transport Iraqi crude oil through Jordan to be exported to Brazil via Aqaba port. Brazil in return would export 100,000 Brazilian-made Volkswagen cars to Iraq as provided for in a barter agreement signed between the two countries.

A source at the Jordan National Shipping Lines (JNSL) Company told the Jordan Times that the JNSL submitted a bid to run the terminal, but did not secure the tender. The source said that it was probably due to differentials in the price of bids.

Police director stresses need for security in tourism sector

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Police Director Brigadier Ghazi Jarrah Monday emphasised the role of the Public Security Department in boosting national tourism and he also promised to maintain the existing atmosphere of stability.

Brig. Jarrah, speaking at a lecture he delivered to the Jordanian Hoteliers Club, added that police personnel are keen to promote the hotel business in the Kingdom. He said that local hotels, in return, are requested to provide tourists with security and peace.

Brig. Jarrah pointed out that Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has security measures which give passengers a relaxing atmosphere from the moment they board until they reach their destination.

He outlined several proposals which he suggested the hotel industry should take into consideration. He said hotels should develop the abilities of Jordanian employees in the hotel sector to reach international standards in their fields and he proposed that hotels set up a centre for studies, research and statistics related to tourism.

Arab education centre calls for continued U.N. assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) regional centre for education in Arab countries have recommended that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNESCO continue their financial and technical support to the centre in order to give it an international dimension, to provide it with scientific experience and to confirm its contributions to the needs of Arab countries.

The three-day meeting, which concluded here Monday, stressed the importance of the centre and emphasised that the centre should continue with its projects and its cooperation and coordination with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALESCO).

The conferees also called for strengthening cooperation between the centre and the Arab education office for the Gulf states and for developing the centre's capabilities to enable it achieve its goals effectively.

They also said that the centre should, in its future programmes and activities, diversify its training courses to meet the real and pressing needs of the Arab World.

Naour to build new cemetery, school and clinic, mayor says

AMMAN (Petra) — Naour Mayor Khalaf Al Hammud Monday announced that 27 dunums and 942 metres of state property has been allocated to establish an Islamic cemetery in Naour.

Mr. Hammud also announced that a team from the Ministry of Education has surveyed the area

in order to establish a modern school on six dunums. The school will offer educational services to Wasfi Al Tal area in Naour, he added. The mayor also said that a modern health centre is currently under construction, which the Ministry of Health is financing at an estimated cost of JD 170,000.

Shultz leaves after talks in Aqaba

(Continued from page 1)

thing. "Other PLO officials echoed the same feeling.

Mr. Khalaf was quoted as saying an immediate declaration of a confederation would go against decisions taken by the PNC and that it would be a mistake for the PLO to go along with any such move.

He said the announcement of a confederation would mean the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian government.

"I am convinced that it is this confederal government which will carry out negotiations over the head of the PLO," he said.

Mr. Khalaf stressed that such a confederation was only possible after negotiations were concluded for the setting up of an independent Palestinian state in land now occupied by Israel, which could then be confederated with Jordan.

On the flight to Vienna, where he is to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on Tuesday, Mr. Shultz said that he had detected "a genuine sense of movement," in all three countries he visited — Israel, Egypt and Jordan.

Ending his four-day trip on an upbeat note, Mr. Shultz said "the main thing I am taking away from Israel, Egypt and Jordan is the

genuine sense of movement... a pretty widespread desire to see things move forward," the Associated Press said in a dispatch from Vienna.

He said he was "encouraged by this brief swivel around" and that the process would continue when King Hussein visits Washington.

Mr. Shultz's assistant Richard Murphy left Aqaba Monday for Israel and where he is expected to hold talks with leaders there. No details on his planned talks were immediately reported.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency said "We are going to continue our contacts with Palestine National Council members as long as they are not identified as PLO council members," the AP quoted a senior unnamed U.S. official as saying in Aqaba Sunday night.

Mr. Murphy, who briefed reporters Sunday night, was quoted as saying however, "No conclusions have been reached or any decisions taken" during talks with the King.

Meanwhile in Rome, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir Monday stressed Israel's refusal to join negotiations on the Middle East with any Arab delegation which included members of the PLO. He was holding a second round of talks with Italian Foreign

Minister Giulio Andreotti after arriving in Rome Saturday for a two-day visit.

Mr. Andreotti told Mr. Shamir Sunday that it would be "a grave error" to ignore recent Arab signs of a willingness to negotiate.

Italian officials said that in Monday's talks Mr. Andreotti told Mr. Shamir: "In the face of the dispersion and the tragedies of the Palestinians, we feel the same emotion that we felt and still feel wherever the Jewish people have been maltreated and abused in their hopes for equality and justice."

The Israeli foreign minister later left on a flight for Tel Aviv.

The King held a two-hour meeting with Mr. Shultz Monday morning during which they discussed efforts aimed at achieving Middle East peace. Following the talks, Mr. Shultz was whisked off to the airport after giving his press conference.

In a brief statement to reporters at Aqaba airport, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who saw Mr. Shultz off, said the talks were "fruitful, friendly, frank and useful. We were able to identify problems and areas of agreement."

He said: "there are steps expected to be taken after discussions with all parties involved." He did not elaborate.

Increasing level of noise pollution could pose health hazards

By Olga Mikhail
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Amman is noisier than Germany," according to a West German expert on pollution who made this statement during a conference on pollution held in Jordan.

Despite the fact that Jordan is not yet facing a noise pollution problem on a very large scale, noise as a pollutant does exist in the downtown area and inside the factories where workers may be exposed to high-level noise which might affect their hearing ability after a period of time.

Recently, many environmental protection agencies in Jordan have become increasingly alert to the problem of noise pollution and its potential dangers, taking into account that there is no law governing labour protection against both physiological and psychological damage as a result of prolonged exposure to high level noise.

As part of its concern about pollution, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has planned a survey in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment in order to study noise pollution inside factories and the effect of noise on workers. "The RSS hopes to set up national standard for noise pollution in Jordan," Mr. Ayman Al Hassan, project manager at the RSS chemical department, told the Jordan Times.

Noise in streets, factories

Like other pollutants, noise is often concentrated in areas where there is a high population. In Amman, and especially in the downtown area, noise pollution is acute on streets where heavy traffic is a major source of noise.

Jackhammers, riveters, equipment at construction sites, street repairs, store front loudspeakers and many other sources also add to the overall noise level of the streets.

Inside plants and factories, noise is considered a very serious pollutant. Workers who operate a very noisy machine day after day can expect to suffer some permanent damage to their hearing if they are exposed to these high noise levels for a number of years.

Unlike water and air pollution, noise does not alter or damage the environment physically or chemically, but is considered a pollutant when it is present in sufficient quantities and intensities to cause psychological stress and physiological damage to people in the environment.

The downtown area of Amman is situated on steep, walled valley surrounded by seven hills, creating a narrow channel in between. With the vast increase in the number of motor vehicles in Amman and due to temperature inversions, air pollutants are trapped in the valley, thus preventing the natural ventilation and dispersal of pollutants.

Problems in downtown Amman

Moreover bus stops, car and bus parking and heavy traffic are contributing to the increase of both air and noise pollution in the downtown area. "For a long time people living down town and in the surrounding areas have been complaining about emissions and noise pollution," Mr. Al Hassan explained. "As a result, the RSS recommended to the Ministry of Municipal, Rural Affairs and the Environment that the downtown area should be restricted to pedestrians only," he added.

Another aspect of the pollution down town is the effect of pollutants on cultural and historical places in the city. Mr. Al Hassan explained that the Roman amphitheatre is threatened by erosion as a result of continuous exposure to air pollutants.

Mr. Al Hassan went on to say that noise pollution inside factories is a very important issue which should be tackled on a national level. "Within our three year agreement with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada, we hope to come out with national standards for noise pollution to be adopted in factories, hospitals, schools and kindergartens," he added.

Moreover, the RSS is concerned about the problem of air pollution inside the factories and the effect of air pollutants on the working atmosphere and labour health. "Studying all these considerations will help society to set up national standards for air and noise pollutants within working areas," Mr. Al Hassan explained.

Health hazards

With the absence of national standards and laws protecting workers using heavy machines, noise pollution at present is creating a serious health hazard in Jordan by affecting both the physiological and psychological conditions of the workers which in turn affects the production level of factories. Various surveys and studies have shown that deafness has long been considered an occupational disease or hazard for printers who operate large presses



Narrow, busy streets in downtown Amman have high noise levels due to the channel effect caused by the surrounding hills (J.T. file photo)

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Projecting U.S. force in the Mideast

By John C. Ausland

OSLO — Driving south of Tampa, Florida, you may chance upon MacDill Air Force Base. Not far inside the entrance is a large concrete building that looks like a warehouse. In it are 800 people preparing for what could be America's next war.

These men and women work for the U.S. Central Command, established in 1983 to replace the Rapid Deployment Force. The command's uninformative name is symptomatic of the ambiguities it faces. Although General Robert C. Kingston, the commander, is responsible for the conduct of any U.S. military operation in the area from Egypt to Pakistan, no government in that region is prepared to provide him a home.

The formation of the Central Command is an important symbol of the change that has taken place

in the U.S. attitude toward the Middle East, and particularly toward the use of force in the Gulf area.

This is illustrated by a policy guideline statement that the State Department sent to the Pentagon in 1969. At that time, the British were withdrawing from the Gulf region and looking to the United States to play a larger role.

Since the United States was engaged in a war in Vietnam, it had little military power to devote to a Gulf contingency. Therefore, said the State Department directive, "The U.S. will meet the threat of expanded Soviet influence by various means, but primarily by helping to encourage the forces of independence and modernisation in the countries of the region itself." This meant, above all, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

All this changed after the revolution in Iran and the Soviet inv-

asion of Afghanistan. Alarmed at the threat to oil fields around the Gulf, President Jimmy Carter in 1980 made his now famous commitment to use force if necessary to defend U.S. interests in that region. The problem was that the Pentagon had little capability to deploy ground forces and land-based air forces to the Gulf area.

In developing such forces, the first question that had to be answered was what contingencies U.S. forces must be able to meet. In public, emphasis was placed on an alleged Soviet threat to the Gulf; the public emphasis now is on a possible Soviet-supported takeover by Iranian Communists when the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini dies. But a more likely use of U.S. forces is thought to be the defence of one of the many fragile regimes in the Gulf area.

The Central Command has at its disposal nearly six army and Mar-

ine divisions, more than 500 air force fighters and bombers, three navy carrier battle groups, and one surface action group (based on a battleship).

The difficult question is how these forces would get to their destination and how they would be sustained. The challenges include these:

Getting the forces to the Gulf area. Although the Pentagon is increasing its sea and airlift capabilities, it would take weeks, even months, to get substantial ground forces to the Gulf. The Pentagon's answer is to preposition equipment and supplies in the area; this ambitious programme is far from complete.

Obtaining the use of bases for aircraft en route to the Gulf. The Pentagon experience in gaining the use of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation bases in connection with airlifts to Israel is not en-

ouraging; it reflects a general reluctance by other NATO members to grant the use of facilities in connection with problems in non-NATO countries. Thus, the use of facilities on the Azores could be crucial in a Gulf crisis, but it is uncertain that Portugal, a NATO member, would cooperate. The Pentagon is trying to develop alternate bases in Africa, including Morocco.

Obtaining the use of bases in the Gulf area. The Pentagon is spending large sums to develop bases in the Indian Ocean area. Key is the base on the island of Diego Garcia. But while it is useful as a logistical base, it is thousands of miles from the Gulf. More useful as an operational base would be the Omani island of Masirah, on which a huge amount of U.S.-financed construction activity is under way. Other bases are being

developed in Kenya, Somalia and Egypt, as well as in eastern Turkey.

Training and equipping American forces to fight in the Gulf area. The combination of mountains and desert poses serious operational problems. The Central Command is trying to provide suitable equipment for its forces, but this takes time. It is also conducting exercises in its area of responsibility and in the United States, in alternate years. Another "Bright Star" exercise, like the one in 1983 involving Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Oman, is due this fall.

There appears to be growing skepticism in Congress about the Gulf commitment now that some of the larger bills are starting to come in. It may be a bit late to think about this — International Herald Tribune.

Outspokenness can harm

SALAH KHALAF is an outspoken Palestinian leader who takes maximum advantage of the peace of his residence in Tunis and Kuwait to say what he wants. This is fine, except that his outspokenness can be very harmful at times.

We do not know whether harm was intended yesterday when Mr. Khalaf gave an interview to Reuters in Tunis to talk about the latest developments on the Palestinian problem and ended up charging that Jordan was ready to declare a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation whose government would negotiate an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. But his remarks certainly sounded offensive and threatening — and we strongly reject them. This is not to say that Mr. Khalaf said in the interview what was correct and sound: His colleagues in the PLO stated frankly and insisted that they had never heard about such a Jordanian intention before.

Abu Iyad made another controversial statement in Kuwait recently, but the PLO went out of its way then to clarify and straighten it. In that statement, Mr. Khalaf was quoted as saying that he was ready to discuss the cancellation of the Feb. 11 accord between Jordan and the PLO if the "democratic alliance" could convince him of the feasibility of such an approach. Fortunately the PLO leadership disavowed such a course and clarified the whole situation satisfactorily on the spot.

Mr. Khalaf should know that Jordan has always stood and will continue to stand by its principled position that no settlement to the Palestinian problem is possible without the full and active participation of the PLO. What then is he trying to do by giving statements, left, right and centre, contrary to what he should know or already knows?

Luckily, Abu Iyad's views do not always represent those of the majority of Palestinians. The Jordanian and Palestinian people now know what they want and have worked so very hard to reach an honest and fair agreement for their future as represented by the Feb. 11 accord. Nobody can tell us the course is wrong, because it is not and the alternatives are virtually non-existent for now. We call upon Mr. Khalaf to keep these facts of life in mind and avoid unnecessary outspokenness when he can.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Seeking Mideast peace

KING HUSSEIN opened talks in Aqaba Sunday with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on the Middle East issue and the Palestine problem. The importance of these talks stems from the fact that they are taking place on the common understanding that any solution of the Middle East issue cannot be found unless the core of this issue has been solved.

Jordan has been stressing all along that Palestinian rights in their homeland lie at the basis of this issue and we know that the American administration realises this fact after 37 years of the displacement of the Palestinians from their homes and following 18 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. These eventful years have been enough for all members of the international community to understand the realities about the situation in the region.

The United States and other nations are well aware of Israel's settlement policy and its drive to evict the Arab population and Judaize their land. The United States also realises that the Jordanians and Palestinians have extended a hand of peace and that it is up to the Israelis to seize this opportunity, and the Americans to help them arrive at a settlement with the Arab nation.

Al Dustour: Arabs losing Africa

ZAIRE PRESIDENT Mobutu Sese Seko's arrival in Israel for a visit saves Israel the trouble of spreading further propaganda in Africa to regain a foothold there. Israel has been doing that for years in the hope of regaining as many friends as possible among the African nations.

Mobutu's Zaire has been among the first countries in Africa to restore diplomatic relations with Israel and to increase the volume of trade and political cooperation with the Zionist state. Zaire along with several other African countries have been encouraged to do that by Western countries, still maintains good relations with many African countries, missing yet these relations are not being bolstered and the Africans are gradually changing heart.

The Africans witness the Arab nation as divided as ever and all the Arabs involved in internal disputes and differences. Israeli infiltration into Africa has not come about because Israel is clever enough but rather as the Arabs are not doing enough to gain friends and maintain their friendship. If the present state of affairs continues, the African nations would, one by one, turn to Israel and its allies in the West. Mobutu's visit to Israel scores a success for Israeli diplomacy and another failure for the Arabs.

Sawt Al Shaab: What U.S. intentions?

IT IS premature to know exactly the intentions of the United States towards the coming peace process. Though it is clear Washington is showing interest in peace by sending its Secretary of State George Shultz to the region, yet it continues to adhere to its old and traditional policies of alliance with Israel regardless of what this alliance could lead to.

Shultz's recent statements in Israel and Egypt focused on heaping praise on the Camp David accords describing them as the basis for any final settlement. But this contradicts the aims and objectives of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement reached in Amman on Feb. 11.

The Amman agreement is clearly designed to achieve a comprehensive peace, not a mere treaty between two parties. What is required is not bilateral treaties but rather a comprehensive peace that can guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. What the United States is required to do now is to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland and to self-determination.

It is not enough to give guarantees to Israel for continued existence in this region but Washington ought to offer rights and guarantees for the Palestinians, who were driven out from their homeland, and the U.S. should realise that without these rights there can be no real peace.

Ulster will vote, but who will take note?

THE NORTHERN Irish vote on a different date, by a different electoral method, and with much more enthusiasm, than their fellow-citizens on the mainland of the United Kingdom. About 65 per cent of Ulster's 1m electors will probably go to the polls on May 15, to elect 566 members to the province's 26 district councils.

The issue at stake is not power in the districts; indeed, under direct rule from Westminster, the councils have practically no powers. But the parties that do well will claim accurately to represent opinion in the two communities — Protestant and Roman Catholic — of the province, and will convey that opinion to the prime ministers of Great Britain and the Irish Republic, who are due to meet in the summer to discuss the future of Ulster. They may, cynics suspect, put little weight on the views of those whose fates they discuss.

The province's communities vote in the same booths, but on separate issues. Cross-voting is lamentably rare. The Alliance party bravely refuses to be sectarian. At the 1977 local elections it got almost 15 per cent of the poll, in 1981 under 9 per cent. Its 100-odd candidates seem likely to get even less this time, particularly since the doughty old socialist, Mr. Paddy Devlin, is launching a would-be non-sectarian, Belfast

version of the Labour party, with half a dozen candidates. It will probably wipe out the alliance's working-class vote in the city.

The big orange

The big battalions are fighting for the Protestant 60 per cent of the electorate. Leave out some small local factions: the rivals are the old-established Official Unionists (OUP) led by Mr. James Moynihan, and the dynamic upstarts of the Democratic Unionist party (DUP), led by Mr. Ian Paisley. At the elections for the European parliament in 1979 Mr. Paisley swept the board, with 30 per cent of the province's votes. Mr. John Taylor of the OUP got 22 per cent. But that was more a protestant plebiscite than a political contest. The figures to watch this time are those of the 1981 local elections, when the DUP got 26.5 per cent of the vote, the OUP 26.5 per cent.

Whichever unionist party comes top this time will claim to speak for Protestant Ulster. They are using identical strategies and peculiar tactics. Both parties claim to be the biggest enemy of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). Both have claimed that the Anglo-Irish talks are being exploited, through the British foreign

office as agents of American imperialism, in order to bring a united Ireland into NATO. Mr. Paisley and Mr. Moynihan have documents to "prove" this fantastic contention (originally invented, it seems, by Mr. Enoch Powell). Whether the stolid voters of the grassy countryside will be turned on by such trivialities remains to be seen.

Much more important is the placing of candidates so as to waste no votes under the Irish system of proportional representation. The DUP put up too many in 1981: this time it has around 220, the OUP around 250, so a higher proportion of DUP candidates will probably be elected. Either way, Mr. Paisley will no doubt continue to claim to speak for Ulster. The prime minister's jobs will be slightly easier if it looks as if he doesn't.

Bullets or ballots

On the Catholic side the rivalry is more bitter still, for shares of the 40 per cent of voters who want Irish national unification. At the 1981 local elections Mr. John Hume's Social Democratic and Labour party (SDLP) got 17.5 per cent of the first preference votes cast (down from 20.6 per cent in 1977).

It was opposed by more ext-

reme candidates, but they were fragmented, and the IRA and its political front, Sinn Fein, was urging abstention. But in 1982 Sinn Fein (SF) decided to fight through the ballot box as well as with its Armalite rifles. At the European elections last year, Mr. Hume got 151,000 votes while Mr. Danny Morrison of SF got 91,000. This is another province-wide test of strength between the militants of SF and the anti-murder nationalists of the SDLP.

The SDLP's problem is that its struggle has got nowhere by constitutional means. Mr. Hume inspired the New Ireland Forum, which tied all the elected parties of the Irish Republic to non-violent change. But the British prime minister has said she thinks not much of that. So the SDLP, with its 170 candidates, is a party of hope but little of that and not much else.

Sinn Fein, though, has worse problems for its 80 candidates standing in 18 districts. However strong their belief in Irish nationalism, most Catholics detest murder and think SF is tainted with it. The party had hoped that several small ultra-nationalist organisations would adopt its label this time, giving it a solid local base in many areas. But even the old-fashioned Irish Independence party (IIP), with its base in Mr. Hume's home town of

Derry, has kept out of SF's clutches and is putting up 35 candidates.

On top of that, the ultra-militants of SF are strongly objecting to the diversion of money to the election battle, when it could as well be used to buy guns. A well-publicised struggle has broken out within the "army council" of the IRA, with accusations of betrayal, expulsions and the usual gangsters' threats of discipline by murder. SF's leading personalities — Mr. Gerry Adams, M.P., Mr. Danny Morrison and Mr. Martin McGuinness — are not candidates, and may be distancing themselves from a possible SF debacle. Peaceful people all over Ireland — not to mention in the British government's Northern Ireland Office — are hoping for just that.

All comparisons with the past are made uncertain, since these elections will be fought under new rules that will compel voters fully to identify themselves before getting a ballot paper. The old Irish tradition of "personation" is in danger. This provision was brought in to frustrate Sinn Fein, which had raised electoral cheating to a higher plane, backing its manipulation of polling stations with two-way radios, pistols, and other modern aids. The no-cheating rules will cost all parties



some votes in some places. In particular, the OUP, as main beneficiaries of the goodwill of the Orange Order, the once-secret society which is Ulster's Protestant conscience, could suffer a serious drop in votes as a result. At least that will be a new problem for the psephologists after May 15 — The Economist.



Greece's June elections expected to be close

By Neocosmos Tzallas

ATHENS — Middle-of-the-road voters could hold the key in the Greek general election next month which pits the ruling Socialists, eager for a second term, against opposition Conservatives.

Commentators on right and left predict a close race, with victory for either of the two major parties dependent on the sympathies of the centrist voting bloc wooed by both.

The poll will climax months of tension since March 9 when Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu refused to back pro-Western Constantine Karamanlis for his second term as president. Parliament voted in a successor but conservatives refused to recognise the election as valid.

Mr. Papandreu, leader of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), has governed for almost four years and says he needs another four-year term to fully implement his policies.

The opposition conservative New Democracy Party says PASOK has pushed unemployment to a record level and kept Greece's 18 per cent inflation rate the highest in the European Community.

A new electoral law favours the party which gains more votes as it is entitled to a bonus of par-

liamentary seats. But commentators say that to win a clear majority, a party must lead the second party by at least three percentage points.

The day after Mr. Papandreu refused to back Mr. Karamanlis for another five-year term as president, Mr. Karamanlis resigned in protest over government plans to limit presidential powers by amending the constitution.

The same month, the leftist-dominated parliament chose Christos Saratzakis as president. New Democracy refused to recognise his election as valid.

Party leader Constantine Mitsotakis insisted on early general elections to solve the constitutional crisis. Mr. Papandreu agreed, calling the poll four months before his term expires. Parliament was dissolved Tuesday (May 7), paving the way for the elections on June 2, after deputies gave a second vote of approval to the controversial constitutional changes.

"It is now up to the people to decide. Good luck in your campaigns," Parliamentary Speaker (chairman) Ioannis Alevas, a senior Socialist official, told members.

Socialists, Communists and independents voted in favour of changes trimming discretionary powers of the president in appointing a prime minister, dis-

solving parliament and pardoning criminals.

Mr. Papandreu and his aides say he will get at least the 48 per cent of the vote which swept him to power in 1981.

However, PASOK's vote fell by six percentage points in European Parliament elections last June, while New Democracy gained three points.

Both Mr. Papandreu and Constantine Mitsotakis, head of New Democracy, have been touring Greece to address mass rallies.

Mr. Mitsotakis, equally confident of victory, says most Greeks have become disappointed with Mr. Papandreu's economic policies that have failed to lift the country out of recession.

He is in favour of restoring Greece's close ties with the United States and its other allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Since 1981 Greece has alienated fellow NATO members by often refusing to take part in military exercises, saying that Turkey — with which Greece is at odds over Cyprus and territorial rights in the Aegean — is being favoured by the alliance.

The Greek Communist Party (KKE), which commands about 11 per cent of the vote and has made overtures to PASOK for cooperation, could play a greater

role if June election result is close, some commentators say.

So far PASOK has not responded, but some commentators say that if neither of the big parties can gain majority in the 300-seat parliament, the temptation may be strong for PASOK and the KKE to form a "popular front".

In the campaign, Mr. Papandreu has defended his record on health, welfare and public works and promised "even better times" in election posters all over Greece.

Mr. Mitsotakis has said that if he were elected prime minister next month, he would start talks with Turkey, a fellow NATO member, to find a way out of the icy relations precipitated by Ankara's recognition of the breakaway state of northern Cyprus in November 1983.

So far Mr. Papandreu has refused to hold such talks, saying that Turkey's recognition of the breakaway state must be revoked and its troops withdrawn from Cyprus for any discussions to start.

New Democracy has also alleged that Greece under the Socialist rule has become a haven for international terrorism.

In recent months there has been a spate of bombings aimed at Arab diplomats, as well as the slaying of a rightwing newspaper publisher.

Zimbabwe wipes out colonial names

By Francis Mdlongwa

HARARE — Cecil John Rhodes, the founder of Rhodesia, now black-ruled Zimbabwe, would be a very disappointed man were he to revisit the country, mused an elderly white here.

"Much of what he did is now being undone if not killed," the tall, grey-haired farmer complained to friends in a local hotel.

Five years after Zimbabwe became independent, some whites here still call themselves "Rhodesians". This farmer was nostalgically referring to colonial names changed by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's government since it took power in 1980.

Rhodes, English financier, politician and empire-builder, came to this former British colony — later named after him — 97 years ago. He died in 1902.

Since taking power, Mr. Mugabe's government has changed the names of towns, streets, buildings and rivers. Officials say this is a concerted effort to wipe out what they see as the country's bad colonial past.

The exercise has now been broadened to cover rural as well as urban centres. English names have given way to those of black nationalist heroes of the guerrilla war against white rule which preceded independence. Names considered misspelled by previous white rulers have been corrected.

Shortly after independence, big cities and major streets were renamed. The capital, Salisbury, became Harare. The midlands and eastern provincial capitals, Gwelo and Umtali, were renamed Gweru and Mutema respectively while Victoria province and its capital Fort Victoria, originally named after Britain's Queen Victoria, both acquired the new name Masvingo.

Last month, more than 70 rivers were renamed, along with 46 districts and several key government buildings in six cities. Officials say more changes are on the way.

Milton Building housing the Prime Minister's office has become Mhumbumutapa in honour of a black chief historians regard as having founded the old kingdom of Zimbabwe several centuries ago. William Henry Milton was a Rhodesian administrator.

In Chinhoyi, a town northwest of here, a building has been renamed "Seven Heroes" to commemorate seven guerrillas killed there in 1966 in the first recorded

clash between white-led government forces and hitherto pacifist black nationalists.

But not all colonial names are being thrown into the dustbin: Tregold Building, named after former Chief Justice Robert Clarkson Tregold, in the southern city of Bulawayo, retains its name.

Mr. Tregold refused to implement anti-guerrilla laws and resigned in 1960. He is highly regarded here for his stand.

Announcing the latest name changes, Mr. Mugabe said they were not just to honour the country's fallen heroes but also to remind all generations about the role and sacrifices made by Zimbabwe's forebears in the fight against white minority rule.

The changes have been welcomed by most blacks, some saying they were long overdue. But some whites have not been amused.

"The government is wasting time. Surely it has more important things to tackle such as unemployment than merely confusing us with these queer names," complained a 27-year-old Portuguese woman executive who has lived in Zimbabwe since 1974.

She said she was a government admirer, but added: "Its priorities are wrong. It's not the time yet to bring about such changes."

Terence Oatt, chief executive of former Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith's Conservative Alliance Party, said: "We are disappointed because the changes have taken away part of our tradition. But we accept that we live in Zimbabwe and that the government has a constitutional right to make changes it sees fit."

Accountant Masimba Mdege, echoing the views of most of his black compatriots, said the new names gave Zimbabweans a sense of independence, dignity and self-respect.

"Can you imagine someone still calling our capital Salisbury? This would be a negation of our freedom," he said.

The main opposition Zimbabwe People's Union (ZAPU) Party of veteran nationalist Joshua Nkomo has also welcomed the changes, but said the government should not be partisan in choosing new names.

ZAPU and Mr. Mugabe's ruling Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) formed a wartime guerrilla alliance and a number of their military commanders killed them have been declared national heroes.

Change comes slowly to Moscow

By Alan Phillips
Moscow — "Don't you know times are changing?" a Russian, agitated by the lack of efforts by staff to find his missing baggage, complained to an impassive airline official.
"Everyone has got to work now. There's a new way of doing things."
That comment, overheard recently at a Moscow Airport, underscores a subtle change in atmosphere here, apparent on returning after an absence of almost five years.
Baggage still gets lost at airports, but — with a new leader in the Kremlin — the Russians seem to have been given a ray of hope that they need not put up with high-handed bureaucrats.
Sloth, graft and drunkenness are among the favourite targets of

new Communist Party chief Mikhail Gorbachev, 54, who took over in March on the death of Konstantin Chernenko.
These slogans have brought a fresh breeze into political discourse and aroused new expectations among ordinary Russians.
But it is hard to see any sign yet of a "Gorbachev effect" in the lower reaches of the bureaucracy, where idleness is often criticised in the official press.
"Your letter will be considered in the course of the next two months," replied a secretary in the administration when asked if there was a response to a request for driving lessons.
On Moscow's broad and noisy streets, a returning visitor is unlikely to find many surprises in the landscape: repair rather than renewal is the order of the day.

Soviet authorities spurn the free-wheeling knock-it-down-and-rebuild attitude of the capitalist West.
Scaffolding has in the meantime gone from one building and sprouted on another, but the message on a placard fixed to one ministry has not changed: "Long live the Communist Party of the Soviet Union."
In stark contrast to the West, no new car designs have taken to the roads over the past five years, though the Soviet Union's first front-wheel drive hatchback has gone into production.
Foreign correspondents' cars now sport a bright yellow number plate — it used to be white — which sets them apart even more starkly from those of Soviet drivers.
In the shops, however, there are clear improvements in the range

of clothing on sale and Moscow women are catching up with their Western sisters in fashion.
Good quality jeans — the prime black market item in the 1970s — are now sold in Soviet shops, imported from India or Finland.
Modish youths can now dress in "dzhinisy" and "crossovki" (jeans and training shoes) just like their counterparts in the West, though a pair of imported denims costs 90 roubles (\$100), or half the average monthly wage.
At such a price they are luxury goods and the washed-out look favoured in the West has not caught on. One Russian mother, given a pair of ready-faded jeans for her son, took them instantly to the dry cleaners to be dyed dark blue again.
Spearheading the fashion drive is Mr. Gorbachev's well-dressed wife Raisa, who is striding with a

sure step into the limelight — at least in the West — from the obscurity normally enjoyed by Kremlin spouses.
While her husband presided over the traditional Mayday parade from the top of Lenin's tomb, Raisa, her daughter Irina and granddaughter Oksana were placed within snapping distance of Western photographers.
But she remains largely unknown at home and no pictures of her have appeared in the Soviet press. "What is Raisa like?" asks a Moscow housewife, who would not recognise her on television when the camera passes silently over her face in a crowd.
Despite the much talked-about change in style at the top, Soviet editors still decry the Western media's thirst for details of politicians' families as a sign of "bourgeois decadence".

Harvard set for row on degree for Reagan

By Alex Brummer
WASHINGTON — The faculty at Harvard University is bracing itself for a vigorous debate about whether President Reagan should be awarded an honorary degree at next year's 350th anniversary celebration.
The university said recently that an invitation had gone to the White House asking Mr. Reagan to speak at the convocation which is due to meet on Sep. 5, 1986.
The White House, which has yet to decide whether to accept the invitation, has been making discreet inquiries to find out whether Mr. Reagan would be honoured with a degree. The president is being urged to attend by his chief-of-staff, Mr. Donald Regan, and his Defence Secretary, Mr. Caspar Weinberger, both of whom hold Harvard degrees.
Some faculty members were quoted at times as saying that the president was seeking to negotiate conditions for his acceptance of the invitation. Decisions on honorary degree are made by two boards of the university and candidates can be proposed or opposed by anyone in the Harvard Community, including faculty members and former graduates.
Opposition to Mr. Reagan receiving a Harvard degree is already bubbling. "The members of Harvard are not a timid bunch," said Mr. David Rosen, the university's vice-president for public affairs. "They like to express their views whether or not they are asked."

Opening shots in the battle to prevent Mr. Reagan being offered an honorary degree were fired by the Nobel Prize winning biologist, Mr. George Wald.
"This president appeals me," he said, adding that Mr. Reagan's presence at the 350th birthday celebrations was "a disgraceful necessity."
It has become almost a matter of form for American presidents to attend Harvard celebrations. President Andrew Jackson received an honorary degree from Harvard in 1833, three years before its bicentennial. President Grover Cleveland attended the 250th anniversary in 1886, but refused an honorary doctor of laws degree on the grounds that he was unworthy. President Franklin

Roosevelt spoke at Harvard's 300th anniversary in 1936, but did not receive an honorary degree because he had been awarded one six years earlier while Governor of New York.
President Reagan, who scored notable political successes at universities across the country during last year's reelection campaign, has lost some of his popularity on campus in recent months.
Among those invited to attend the 350th convocation is Prince Philip, as chancellor of Cambridge University, which has special ties to Harvard through the Massachusetts university's founder Mr. John Harvard. Buckingham Palace has sent word that the prince will not attend — The Guardian.

hybrids which need careful management, more water and more imported inputs. More attention must be given to developing multiple crop systems emphasising small farms. Sweden is supporting a project in Botswana in which alternative land-use and farming systems on the fringe of the Kalahari Desert are under study.
In the 1970s, Swedish aid was often criticised as being too shy in selling environmental management to Africa. The official view was that projects should be selected according to the priorities of recipient governments, which did not lie in the environmental field. But, with hindsight, the real constraint was the time it took for both sides to implement programmes.
As a result of rethinking which started well before the present drought, that capacity now exists. Sweden intends to push ahead in a manner and on a scale which would have been impossible 10 years ago — Earthscan feature.



Major change in Sweden's Africa aid policies

Swedish aid is undergoing a major change of emphasis following failures in helping solve the problems of Africa. Environmental protection, decentralised management, and greater local involvement are all part of plans to get aid to the people who need it.
By Goesta Edgren
STOCKHOLM — Swedish bilateral aid policy is undergoing a major change of emphasis. This follows the consistent failure of foreign assistance to help solve the problems of Africa, as highlighted by the present drought, famines and food shortages. More environmental protection, more decentralised management, and greater local community involvement are all essential if aid is to help the people that really need it.
Africa is the key element in Swedish aid policy. It receives two-thirds of direct Swedish aid, and 11 of the 17 Swedish programme countries are in Africa. Since the late 1970s, there has been a growing realisation among administrators and politicians responsible for Swedish aid that it was based on over-optimistic and unrealistic assumptions.
African economies have been unable to generate the foreign exchange earnings needed to maintain production. As a result, Sweden has given increased emphasis in recent years to programmes rather than project aid, so that African governments can better maintain existing plants and ease the burden of foreign debt.
The need to service debts means that the flow of capital to sub-Saharan Africa over the next few years will be reduced by at least \$2 to \$3 billion a year. And the international financial system is being seriously weakened by the withdrawal of U.S. support. This is intolerable. Donors must face the fact that Africa's crisis is a joint responsibility for everyone, and that more financial resources and easier terms of credit are needed.
Foreign aid donors to Africa have sometimes supported the wrong activities. In the 1970s, we encouraged African governments to invest in industries, infrastructure and social services to a level that can now no longer be sustained. Our preference for starting new projects and time-consuming administrative procedures has strained their man-

agerial capacity. The projects we supported were often imposed by African central government with too little attention to local aspirations and needs.
Some of the weaknesses of foreign aid policy are now being rectified, but many of the mistakes will be difficult to remedy. Our preference for expensive and complex technologies has made it impossible for Africa to narrow the gap between modern and traditional sectors. Technologies have been imported without being adapted, and little has been done to upgrade traditional technology in the rural areas.
For example, Swedish rural water programmes in Tanzania and Kenya have all but collapsed. After 15 years of major investment in piped water and mechanised pumping equipment, less than 10 per cent of the installations are still in use. Together with African governments, we have now shifted our emphasis from large-scale fuel-driven units to small handpumps and shallow wells, which has led to much greater local community participation.
Food production and environmental protection have long been central to Swedish aid policies, but never more so than since the start of the present drought. Shortages can only be solved by increasing food production in Africa, not by producing surpluses for export from Europe. We need to improve the accuracy of forecasts and data on the availability of food in Africa itself, and to improve the efficiency of distribution systems. Farmers need to be encouraged with price incentives, and the provision of training and research facilities, storage and transport.
The present famines have forced us to realise that donors have made African agriculture more vulnerable to drought by increasing the reliance on sensitive

hybrids which need careful management, more water and more imported inputs. More attention must be given to developing multiple crop systems emphasising small farms. Sweden is supporting a project in Botswana in which alternative land-use and farming systems on the fringe of the Kalahari Desert are under study.
In the 1970s, Swedish aid was often criticised as being too shy in selling environmental management to Africa. The official view was that projects should be selected according to the priorities of recipient governments, which did not lie in the environmental field. But, with hindsight, the real constraint was the time it took for both sides to implement programmes.
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Loading water skins, western Sudan. Swedish aid is trying to match the technologies of the people it is meant to benefit. (Earthscan photo)

The dazzling vision of a billion Chinese customers

China has fundamentally changed its approach to trade, as economic reforms under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping have led to an increase in foreign investment and considerable decentralisation. Colina MacDougall reports on the changing face of the Chinese as negotiators and trade partners.

LONDON — Gone are the days of the late 1970s and early 1980s, when a Chinese delegation would drop by your factory, politely swallow a Western-style lunch, tour the workshops and vanish back to China without further comment.
Last month, Britain's Dunlop signed a £17 million (\$18.2 million) contract to supply the technology and equipment for a tyre plant in the north-east province of Liaoning.
The week before, Short Brothers of Belfast won a £30 million order from Peking for eight aircraft following recent deals by Boeing and McDonnell Douglas for 737s and MB80s.
In January, the U.S. computer group Wang signed three joint venture agreements. Japan's Matsushita raised its planned assembly of video recorders in China to 30,000 a year and the Swiss Brown Boveri sold £53 million worth of power equipment. All this came hot on the heels of dozens of contracts for trucks, steel plant and telephone equipment, not to mention smaller deals for items like Polaroid film or welding machines.
"The China trade picture has fundamentally changed," says Bernard Buckman, chairman of Wogen Resources and vice-president of the Sino-British Trade Council. "Now the Chinese are serious," echoed Frank Duncan, London based partner of China consultants Mark Wong Associates. The same message comes from Bonn, Tokyo, Washington and other capitals regularly on China's trade beat.
Chinese imports climbed by over 37 per cent last year to \$25.5 billion and are sure to rocket again this year as deals in the pipeline start to show up in the trade figures. The years of caution brought on by shortage of cash and concern that anti-foreign leftism might break out again appear to be over.
Peking, flush with funds after a hugely successful export drive selling everything from more oil to frozen shrimps, has given the go-ahead to Chinese organisations to buy, borrow or otherwise acquire the modern technology they so badly need.
Growing exports and greater economic freedoms have generated a more than comfortable nest-egg of foreign exchange. This now totals around \$16 billion, excluding gold reserves of over 12 million ounces. In November, Peking said the country would begin to draw on this nest-egg to finance essential imports. For instance, in January the Chinese agreed to pay cash for FF500 million (\$48.5 million) worth of badly needed digital telephone exchanges from the French CIT-Alcatel.
But China's leader Deng Xiaoping long ago realised that buying and selling in the conventional mould was not going to be enough to bring in all the technology needed to modernise China. New projects and a reformed system were needed. Since 1979 Peking has been steadily encouraging foreign investment, promoting new faces in the ministries, streamlining the bureaucracy and decentralising decisions.
Promised foreign investment in China from 1979 to mid-1984 totalled \$8 billion of which \$500 million went into joint equity ventures. The Chinese are particularly eager to get these ventures because, as they see it, the foreign partner is much keener than he would be as a mere salesman to contribute his knowhow and management skills.
There were, up to June last year, 362 joint equity ventures of various size and success, plus hundreds of cooperation agreements, processing and assembly deals, and compensation trade pacts. Technology licensing is increasing, and all over China even tiny factories are hunting up foreign partners to help them modernise.
Younger, bolder administrators are increasingly making their

mark on the Chinese bureaucracy. "Vice-Premier Li Peng, who is in his fifties and a former technocrat with the power ministry, is desperately trying to get the Chinese negotiators to tie up the deal for the Guangdong nuclear power station at Daya," says one businessman. "He knows that if they don't get a move on, it'll hardly be finished in the 1990s."
"Chinese negotiators are getting much more experienced," says another. "For instance, they're beginning to understand about cash flow. When we explain to them that if we get some money back from a project quickly, we can give them a better price in the first place, they get the message." "They've eliminated much of the red tape to speed things along," adds a third.
Reform has meant that dealing with the bureaucracy has become much more direct. "Business with China isn't exotic any longer, it's completely standard and routine," said Heinrich Weiss, head of SMS, which old China a DMI.3 billion (\$385 million) rolling mill last year, in a magazine interview last month.
"Whereas before we had to negotiate every detail of an agreement with a ministry in Peking, now we deal directly with provincial governments or even with the companies with which we plan to work. The Chinese have dropped all the circumlocutions and polite formulae and come straight to the point."
Mr. Deng's decentralisation policy has taken off to remarkable effect. Key cities and provinces, such as Shanghai and Guangdong, are allowed to make their own deals up to ceilings of several million dollars or more. The four tax-concession Special Economic Zones, three in Guangdong province and one in Fujian, operate near-independently. When Deng toured these last year he was so impressed with progress that he pushed through a directive giving 14 other cities similar powers.
American companies particularly have moved out to the provinces. Boeing says it is negotiating with six of China's new provincial airline administrations where they expect sizeable markets for aircraft as hotels and industry grow.
Wang's new joint ventures are scheduled not just for Peking and Shanghai, but also Nian. Japan's MITI, on the other hand, tends to advise potential investors to head for the Special Economic Zones since, besides the tax concessions, they also allow greater management flexibility.
But despite the trade boom, businessmen still have reservations. Mr. Deng's reforms so far have only half worked. In joint ventures, Chinese inexperience is a headache. "There is a growing trend among Chinese organisations to demand renegotiation when they perceive contract terms to be unfavourable," says Dennis B. Kelley, formerly director of China operations for Cummins Engine Company, in a recent issue of the authoritative Washington-based China Business Review.
On top of that, Mr. Kelley adds, Chinese enterprises make over-optimistic sales projections, change their senior staff frequently because of retirement policies, and their productivity is low. Perhaps more disconcerting, they do not keep contact with their foreign partner. "Big surprises may await the U.S. management team when they arrive on site after a three-month hiatus in communications."
The Americans have been quickest to take up the joint venture idea. "They're still dazzled by the vision of the market of one billion customers," said one trade consultant drily. Numbers of U.S. deals run into the 20s, the majority (excluding offshore oil) in light industry or the service sector.
Bureaucratic reform, though under way, is moving slowly. Officials still delay contracts. Framatome, after four to five years of

negotiations over the nuclear element in the Daya power station, is tired of the long wait to sign. First the deal was to have been clinched last spring. Then signature was fixed for December. Now the new date is April this year.
"The travel, hotels and associated expenses are costing us FF8-9 million a month," says Framatome, which maintains teams of executives in Peking, Hong Kong and Shenzhen. Asked about Chinese plans to cut bureaucracy, Framatome's view is that "good intentions have yet to be turned into results."
This would probably be confirmed by CIT-Alcatel. Peking desperately needs a new telephone system, but the negotiations still took two years.
On top of typical bureaucratic delay, Peking's negotiators in the new profit-oriented climate spin out discussions to try to get price cuts. "The Chinese are redoubtable negotiators. They know how to apply psychological pressure," says one CIT-Alcatel official.
He spoke with reason. CIT faced protracted last minute discussions on their contract which held up the signing from December onwards. The deal was only clinched in January when the chairman, Georges Peberneau, threatened at the end of his 24-hour visit to Peking to fly back without signing.
Decentralisation has also caused problems. If you sell to a previously unknown Chinese organisation, you need some kind of assurance that it will be able to pay. For provincial joint ventures, there is no lack of potential partners but their inexperience makes them risky. On top of that, the free market has not really arrived yet and new companies often have to get allocations of basic supplies from the state, which they may find difficult.
Last month, the West German economics minister, Herr Martin Bangemann, put some of the problems to the Chinese. He admitted that they were now providing better data and more clearly presented invitations to tender, but asked for more accurate figures and help for representatives of foreign companies not just in Peking but other Chinese cities.
He also elaborated on importers' problems in terms that would be echoed everywhere. Besides wanting more FOB-based export contracts and more foreign freightlines to handle a bigger share of the trade, he asked for stronger guarantees against failure by Chinese exporters to fulfil contractual commitments on quality and quantity as well as price.
Decentralisation has meant wild competition among booming enterprises and declining standards of reliability. For instance, in minerals the old state trading corporation has been replaced with several offshoots which furiously undercut one another. "They're inexperienced, they dishonour contracts, two guys have even been executed for fraud," said one metals trader.
But foreign companies are still far from discouraged. The Chinese are much better organised and informed than they were five years ago.
On top of that, their spending plans are taking shape. China now means to use over \$14 billion of reserves on modernisation over the next three years.
What they want is much clearer. Priorities under the present five-year plan (1981-85) are transport, telecommunications, energy and technical renewal, as their recent buying programme confirms.
While they have said they will not start any large new developments in the next five-year plan (1986-90), they will be negotiating for projects which need a long lead time — nuclear power, for instance. They are also going to need thousands of smaller deals to help re-equip the general run of Chinese industry.
As for the system and its reforms, as long as Deng remains around, "if they find they don't work, they'll change them," said one trader. "They've got that flexibility now." — Financial Times news feature.

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Lendl beats McEnroe in 6-3, 6-3 easy victory

NEW YORK (R) — Ivan Lendl ended John McEnroe's three-year reign as the kingpin of the \$615,000 Tournament of Champions Sunday when he posted a surprisingly easy 6-3, 6-3 victory in the final.

Breaking McEnroe's service four times while losing his own serve only once, the second-seeded Lendl moved out to 4-0 and 4-1 leads in the two sets and was never seriously challenged by McEnroe, the top seed.

The victory on a clay-court surface at Forests Hills avenged McEnroe's 6-4, 6-2 triumph over Lendl in last year's final.

Overall, McEnroe holds a 12-10 edge over the Czechoslovak, but Lendl has won three of their five matches on clay, including a dramatic five-set victory in last year's French Open final when he battled back from two-sets down to win his first Grand Slam title.

Lendl's win Sunday, before a crowd of about 12,000 at the West Side Tennis Club, was his fourth consecutive tournament title and brought his record for the year to

22-1. The loss was McEnroe's second against 29 victories in 1985.

The victory earned Lendl \$80,000. McEnroe collected \$40,000.

Lendl's win was also sweet since he had lost to McEnroe in their last two meetings—in the finals of last year's U.S. open and this year's Masters Tournament in January.

But those defeats were both on hard and fast surfaces, where McEnroe is at his best with his wicked twist service and deadly volleying game.

Lendl, by contrast, is most formidable on clay because of his tendency to stay back and drive punishing groundstrokes. On Sunday, he went to the net only once, in the fourth game of the second set when he scored with a forehand volley.

McEnroe, on the other hand, attacked the net often, where he was passed often and was erratic with his volley.

The Wimbledon and U.S. open champion did manage to keep the ball away from Lendl's vaunted forehand through most of the hour and 29-minute match. That did him little good, however, since Lendl repeatedly drilled sharply angled backhand crosscourt winners, often from beyond the baseline.

Lendl also was more effective on service, hammering in seven aces and connecting on 64 per cent of his first serves, as against no aces and 55 per cent for McEnroe.

Apart from questioning several line calls, McEnroe was on his best behaviour before a crowd of about 12,000 on a hot, sunny day.

Asked later if he was surprised by McEnroe's magnanimous gesture, the 25-year-old Lendl replied: "Yes, I was, especially since the serve definitely was wide." "I think I have the edge here because of the speed of the court even though it's fairly fast for a clay court," he said.

Jordan Premier League matches end in draw

By Munem Fakhoury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Jazeera Club and Ain Karim Society drew 2-2 (halftime 1-1) while Al Hussein Club and Al Naser Club drew 0-0 in the two soccer matches held at Amman and Irbid stadiums Monday night in the first week of Jordan Premier League tournament. Today, Tuesday the League will continue when Al Faisaly Club meet Al Ahli at 4 p.m. at Amman Stadium followed by Amman Club (holder) and Al Baqa'a Social Youth Centre at 6 p.m.

Al Jazeera took the lead in the 21st minute through winger Omar Kyali who got a good pass from international Issam Tally to send it inside Ain Karim's net with a brilliant "doublekick". In the 32nd minute Al Jazeera missed another chance to support the first goal when Ayman Hamsi failed to score while he was facing the mouth of Ain Karim's goal. Ain Karim players took this chance to coordinate themselves and controlled the rest of the first half and succeeded to score the equaliser in the 42nd minute through striker Mahmoud Naser.

The second half was completely controlled by Al Jazeera whose players failed to score from the many chances and opportunities they got. In the 80th minute Kamal Jalal captain of Ain Karim took the indirect kick and send the ball over towards the penalty area of Al Jazeera to be received by striker Mahmoud Naser who headed it inside the net and the second goal for Ain Karim. After only two minutes Nazih Srouf Al Jazeera's left defender took the indirect kick and passed it to Asa'ad Deibes and sent it like a rocket from 35 metres inside the net of Ain Karim scoring the equaliser to end the match which attended by about 3,000 spectators.

In the northern city of Jordan, Irbid, Al Hussein Club entertained Al Naser Club in the second soccer match held Monday night at Irbid Stadium where the two teams drew scoreless to share the two League points.

Al Hussein players were able to control the match but were not able to score.

Everton: The show must go on

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (R) — The one-minute silence which Everton and Rapid Vienna will observe before Wednesday's European Cup Winners' Cup final will be an eloquent memorial to the 52 English soccer fans who died in the Bradford City fire tragedy.

But while the rest of the nation remain numbed by Saturday's horror at the little Third Division ground, Everton must forget the black armbands.

For them, the show must go on as they seek the second leg of a unique treble and crown a truly remarkable 12 months in which they have emerged as the most consistent club in England.

Though Udo Lattek, manager of beaten Cup Winners' semi-finalists Bayern Munich, is guilty of exaggeration when he describes them as "currently the best team in Europe", Everton travel to Rotterdam as English champions and F.A. Cup holders.

Having lost their 28-game unbeaten run in a meaningless 1-0 league defeat at Nottingham Forest on Saturday, Everton will fly home immediately after the Cup Winners' final to prepare for their second successive F.A. Cup final

appearance against Manchester United at Wembley three days later.

The sight of some 1,000 Scottish supporters of Glasgow Celtic among the Everton contingent on the Feyenoord Stadium terraces makes the 25th Cup Winners' Cup final a little bit out of the ordinary.

Normally, the Scots would take only a passing interest in such a game, enjoying a barely concealed smirk should the English lose.

But Rapid Vienna have made few friends in the competition, though they influenced the people who count by successfully appealing that their second round second leg tie against Celtic should be replayed because of crowd trouble in Glasgow.

Rapid, who were totally outplayed 3-0 to lose 4-3 on aggregate, claimed one of their players had been hit by a missile and forced to leave the pitch.

The European Football Union (UEFA) upheld Rapid's appeal, though they later dismissed a similar plea by Internazionale Milan in a UEFA Cup tie against Real Madrid.

Final bonuses aside, both clubs have incentives to succeed and Everton's domestic triumphs will not have doused their burning desire to acquire a European trophy.

Apart from adding to their private collection of silverware, Everton could also share the honour of being instrumental in Liverpool's elevation in status to the new capital of European football. In two weeks time, their great rivals Liverpool bid for their fifth Champions' Cup Trophy against Juventus of Italy in Brussels.

Italy holds on to Maradona

ROME (R) — The Italian Soccer League Monday refused to allow Argentines Diego Maradona and Daniel Passarella to miss their final soccer match of the season, when their clubs Napoli and Fiorentina are due to meet, in order to take part in Argentina's World Cup preparations.

The President of the Italian National Soccer Federation, Federico Sordillo, said in a telex to his Argentine counterpart that, although both clubs had given their approval, the Italian League had refused permission.

Sordillo said the league had objected because it felt that it would be dangerous to set a precedent.

Both Napoli and Fiorentina are in the middle of the Italian First Division and unaffected by relegation battles or for a place in Europe.

Until now, Maradona has avoided any problems by shutting back and forth between Argentina and Italy.

After scoring for Argentina against Paraguay last Thursday, he returned in time to score twice in Napoli's 2-2 draw with Udinese on Sunday, an early free-kick and a late header, before taking another flight back to Buenos Aires. The Italian league season ends on Sunday.

Soviet wins judo European title

HAMAR, Norway (R) — World bantamweight champion Khazret Tietseri of the Soviet Union confirmed his reputation as one of the best judo fighters in the world when he won his fourth successive European title on the last day of the European Championships Sunday.

The final of the openweight category brought one of the biggest surprises of the championships, when the favourite Khabib Biktachev of the Soviet Union was beaten by the much-improved West German Alexander van der Groben.

As expected the Soviet Union dominated the medals table over the four-day competition, winning four golds and one silver.

TIME

EUROPE EVOLUTION OF A PRINCESS (Changing attitudes in Britain by and toward Princess Anne)
TEN DAYS THAT SHOOK THE WEST TRAVEL & TUMULT (Reagan's tour through Europe)
D-DAY EAST AND WEST (Differing tones in observances)

FEMALE SECRETARY WANTED

- Accurate typing in English and Arabic with experience.
- Fluent-speaking and writing in English.
- Experience in operating a word-processor preferred, or prepared get training.
- Employment originally for short period but subject to extension.

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THE AL-HUSSEIN SOCIETY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Take this opportunity to invite the people of Amman to an Open-Day Thursday 16th May held at the centre 7th Circle. Come and discover for yourself how our centre aims to help the disabled child of today. Further enquiries Phone 817598/817599

THE AL-HUSSEIN SOCIETY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Wishes to express its appreciation and grateful thanks to the management and employees of the Marriott Hotel for their splendid organisation of the Friday May 10 fun train-ride fund raising day. It was truly a day to remember. A special thankyou is extended to all who participated to make the day a success.

VILLA-PALACE FOR SALE

A uniquely designed villa-palace is offered for sale. It consists of: 5 bedrooms, 3 salons, 2 sitting rooms, 2 servant's rooms, balconies, planted garden, double car garage. The villa is nicely located in Abdoun.

For further information, please telephone 625956.

FOR RENT APARTMENT

A flat in building, 2nd floor, consisting of 3 bedrooms, dining room, 2 bathrooms, central heating.

Location: Rapiha quarter, rent JD 2,800 yearly.

If interested, please contact Tel. 675902.

FOR SALE

Piano, two years old in excellent condition. Leaving Jordan so must sell.

JD 1000

Tel. 674868 between 6-8 p.m.

BRITISH LADIES OF A'MMAN

Monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 15, at 10 a.m. at the Regency Palace Hotel.

Mrs. Ann O'Neill will speak about

Jordan's Wild Flowers

Creche will be available.

OFFICE FOR RENT

Space 135 sqm; location: Shmeisani Arab College, Main St., opposite Suad Pharmacy, telephone line is available.

For more information, please call Tel. 663818 during the working hours.

SCANDINAVIAN FURNITURE AND HOUSEHOLD SALE

Sale 2nd floor

Marriott hotel

Hours 12.00-18.00 daily

Tel: 661043

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

One bedroom, a sitting room, a kitchenette with heating.

Location: Between the Third and Fourth Circles, behind Firas Bookshop, Jabal Amman.

Please call: Telephone No. 442922

ATTRACTIVE APARTMENT FOR RENT

Attractive ground-floor apartment in a three-apartment building. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, salon, large living and dining hall, veranda, spacious kitchen, central heating, telephone, wooded garden, separate entrance. Select quiet neighbourhood. Near Third Circle, Jabal Amman.

Please contact telephone 641641 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

FOR RENT

Modern furnished apartments

- Three bedrooms, living-dining room, kitchen and two bathrooms.
- Two bedrooms, living-dining room, kitchen and bathroom.
- One bedroom, living-dining room, kitchen and bathroom.

Central heating and telephones.

Location: Shmeisani, near Birds' Garden.

Tel: 641443

APARTMENT FOR RENT

3 bedrooomed, deluxe furnished apartment, with central heating, colour TV, telephone, and very spacy salon.

Location: 6th Circle.

Call: 641345, between 8-10, and 669611 all day.

MAID REQUIRED

A Filipino maid is required for cleaning an office on Fridays.

Interested applicants to call on the company premises, opposite the Royal Cultural Centre, up the Plastic Road, 3rd turning to the right, 2nd villa on the left - on Tuesday and Wednesday, 14 and 15 May '85.

FIVE FILS ONLY

Cascade Kenwood machine gives you a bottle of mineral water (soda).

Available from all household stores.

Agents: Al Husari Trading Co.

Abdall - opposite Police Training College.

Tel: 662012.

<p>Cinema CONCORD Tel: 44092-4280 677420 FORCED VENGEANCE (Colour) Performances: 3:30, 6:16, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema AL-HUSSEIN Tel: 22117 NINJA IN THE DRAGON'S DEN (Colour) Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155 CONVOY 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema OPERA Tel: 675573 DB COOPER 4 6:30 8:30 10:30 Abdall, behind ALIA offices</p>	<p>Cinema PALESTINE Tel: 22117 1- DISCO FIFTY-FIFTY 2- FUN GIRLS (Colour) Performances: 12-3-7</p>	<p>Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 22198 TROUBLEMAKER (Colour) Performances: 12-3-5:30-8</p>	<p>*** Cine-Theatre *** Philadelphia Shows at 3:30, 6:30, 9:15 TEL: 3444-3449 *****</p>
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.2480/95	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3750/60	Canadian dollars
	3.0890/910	West German marks
	3.4880/4910	Dutch guilders
	2.6000/30	Swiss francs
	62.20/23	Belgian francs
	9.4200/4300	French francs
	1971.03/0	Italian lire
	251.45/55	Japanese yen
	8.9125/9225	Swedish crowns
	8.9050/9150	Norwegian crowns
	11.0950/1050	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	317.10/317.60	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities started the new three-week account higher on institutional support, having initially firmed after the sharp rise on Friday's GMT street, dealers said. The FTSE 100 share index at 1530 GMT was up 15.5 to a new high of 1331.3.

Government bonds showed gains of up to half a point in longer dated issues on the back of firmer sterling. Demand exhausted the 10 1/4 per cent treasury 1995 "taplet" at £103 1/4 and the 12 1/4 per cent exchequer 1990 "taplet" at £103 3/4.

British Aerospace gained 18p to 436 with details of its share allocation announced Monday. Allocations have been heavily scaled down due to oversubscription. North Americans firmed.

Burnmah jumped 41p to 299 following news that it had been approached by Heron Corp. on the possibility of a bid and Debenhams continued its recent advance on bid speculation, up 10p to 328. BOC rose 7p to 291 following interim figures in line with expectations and Unilever firmed 15p to 1,170 after its first quarter earnings which were in the middle of a wide range of market forecasts. Gold shares were firm.

In banks, Natwest gained 10p to 674. It said it was issuing \$1 billion of perpetual floating rate notes in two tranches.

Jordan's 1984 oil bill totals \$606m

AMMAN (R) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company said it imported crude oil worth 245 million dinars (\$606 million) last year, up from 209 million dinars (\$517 million) in 1983.

The refinery, Jordan's sole crude importer, said in its annual report it imported 2.62 million tonnes of crude in 1984, 2.42 million from Saudi Arabia and 0.19 million from Iraq.

It gave no comparative figures for the previous year, but its 1983 annual report said it processed 2.6 million tonnes that year.

The company said it also imported 5,000 tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas and 139,000 tonnes of fuel oil from Iraq.

The refinery, at Zarqa 24 kilometres northeast of Amman, made a net profit of 3.3 million dinars (\$8.2 million) in 1984, 18 per cent more than the previous year, and declared a dividend of nine per cent to shareholders. The state has a 50 per cent shareholding.

Banker says Iraq plans to launch Islamic bank

KUWAIT (R) — Iraq has tentative plans to set up an Islamic bank, operating according to Sharia law, Mr. Ahmad Bazi Al Yassin, chairman of the Kuwait Finance House was quoted as saying.

He told the Kuwait News Agency Iraq's Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Abdulla Fadel had informed him last month of his intention to launch an Islamic bank.

Islamic banks provide most banking services, but operate according to a principle of risk-sharing in which interest is prohibited. Depositors are paid dividends instead.

Mr. Al Yassin said he had offered financial and administrative help from Kuwait Finance House, Kuwait's only Islamic bank, in setting up the proposed bank.

The new bank, which was discussed when Mr. Al Yassin visited Baghdad in April for government-sponsored Islamic conference talks on the Iran-Iraq war, would operate under the direct supervision of Iraq's Al Rafidain commercial bank, he added.

Balance of payments in Oman falls sharply

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's balance of payments surplus, fell to a provisional \$226 million last year from \$606 million in 1983, the president of the sultanate's central bank said.

Dr. Abdul Wahhab Khayata told a recent meeting of bankers here that central bank calculations indicated the Omani economy grew slightly faster last year than in 1983, but he gave no figures. Gross domestic product rose 5.1 per cent in 1983.

In his speech, reported in the latest issue of the central bank's monthly magazine, Dr. Khayata said he expected the economy to grow even faster this year, partly because of a six per cent increase in budgeted government spending.

He gave no details to explain the fall in the balance of payments surplus, but official figures already released show a 10.3 per cent rise in imports last year.

No figures are yet available for the value of oil exports, which in 1983 accounted for 92 per cent of export income.

Oil exports in 1984, at 135 million barrels, were five per cent up on the 1983 figure, but the central bank magazine said there was a marginal decline in prices.

Oman's overall balance of payments has shown a consistent surplus for the last six years, reaching a peak of \$1.39 million dollars in 1981.

Algeria to expand oil exploration, minister says

NICOSIA (R) — The Algerian government has approved new legislation to boost oil exploration with help from foreign firms, minister of energy Mr. Belkacem Nabi was quoted as saying.

In an interview with the Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), Mr. Nabi said the new legislation was in line with present conditions elsewhere in the world and provided flexible terms for foreign firms.

"The draft law ... which has been under study, discussion and preparation for the past four years, was approved by the cabinet on May 4 and will be submitted to parliament for debate and ratification in the next few days," Mr. Nabi said.

The state oil firm Sonatrach, spending \$300 to \$350 million annually on exploration, would continue Algeria's main effort, he said, but it was also anxious to explore in association with foreign firms.

Mr. Nabi also indicated that discussions were under way with potential natural gas buyers, and new gas export contracts could be signed in 1985, the newsletter added.

Sweden moves to halt funds outflow

STOCKHOLM (R) — The Swedish central bank Monday raised interest rates and curbed bank lending in a bid to stem a big currency outflow and remove uncertainty caused by a nationwide civil servants' conflict.

The bank boosted the discount rate, its normal lending rate for banks, by two percentage points to 11.5 per cent and lifted the rate banks must pay for short-term funds, the "penalty rate", by 2.5 per cent to 16 per cent.

It also announced a series of measures putting tight curbs on bank lending.

The bank announced the measures following a massive net currency outflow and a serious worsening in Sweden's balance of payments which showed a deficit of 6.1 billion crowns (\$683 million) in the first quarter of 1985, against a surplus of 3.3 billion (\$369 million) in the same period last year.

Central bank governor Mr. Bengt Dennis said the interest-rate adjustments were necessary as the public sector conflict had caused widespread uncertainty over the Swedish economy and contributed to the accelerating outflow.

The civil servants' conflict, now in its second week and involving some 70,000 people on strike or affected by a lockout, has shut air-

ports, halted most foreign trade and closed government agencies.

About 50,000 civil servants employed at public authorities ranging from the statistical bureau to Sweden's national defence research institute were being turned away from their jobs.

State employers imposed the lock-out in response to selective strikes by 20,000 civil servants, now in their second week, which have closed airports and stopped most foreign trade.

The government has refused to meet demands for a 3.1 per cent pay rise on top of a five per cent increase for 1985 agreed with unions two years ago, on the grounds that it would jeopardise its anti-inflation strategy.

The lockout will not now affect an estimated 300,000 children,

who originally faced an unscheduled holiday Monday.

Employers Sunday exempted most primary school teachers from the lockout in response to trade unions agreeing to end strikes in some other sectors.

Following day-long discussions Sunday, union officials agreed to end all disruption to postal services and let striking meat inspectors return to work.

The undersecretary for civil service affairs, Mr. Claes Ortengren, said the concessions could help pave the way towards an eventual settlement, but warned that this was still far away.

"This could be the first of a great number of steps which are necessary to solve this conflict," he told a television interviewer.

EC may press Bonn to cut cereal prices

BRUSSELS (R) — West Germany could be out-voted over its refusal to accept price cuts for cereal grains when European Community (EC) farm ministers make a fresh attempt to fix prices for the 1985-86 year Monday night.

Diplomats say farm ministers may force a vote in frustration at the two-month deadlock caused by the refusal of West German Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle to accept price cuts.

"We are insisting they reach a decision this time even if a vote is needed. A further delay is not in the interests of farmers," a spokesman for the European Commission, the Community's executive body, told reporters.

A vote could lead to an internal crisis as a majority decision is not normally taken on matters of national interest for fear of creating even wider splits.

West Germany, however, has recently supported moves to introduce more voting into Community institutions.

Faced with growing stocks of unwanted food, the commission proposed price cuts of 3.6 per cent for all cereals and up to six per cent for some fruit and vegetables in the toughest price review in Community history.

Most member states accept that with grain silos bursting with last year's bumper harvest of 150 million tonnes — larger than the American crop for the first time — the Community must cut prices.

But West Germany has refused to fall into line, blocking progress at the annual talks where the 10 ministers fix the guaranteed prices paid to the group's eight million farmers.

France, hitherto West Germany's staunchest Community ally, favours cuts to bring prices more into line with world market levels and head off U.S. criticism that subsidies are allowing the

Community to capture an unfair share of the export market.

Britain, which advocates tight Community budgets, wants even larger cuts.

Under the commission's proposals, prices for other products would be frozen and overall spending would be steadied at just over last year's \$14 billion.

Many Community diplomats said that after elections in North Rhine-Westphalia Sunday, Mr. Kiechle would have more room for manoeuvre, but others said they were unlikely to have an impact on the talks as it was not a farming region.

U.S. oil industry shake-up worries analysts

NEW YORK (R) — Sweeping moves by America's oil moguls to secure a future in a world of declining oil prices have started to worry industry analysts, who fear they are taking on too much debt.

Major business restructuring by leading U.S. oil firms, spurred on by a spate of hostile takeover bids, has led to higher borrowing that risks becoming excessive, economists and industry analysts contacted by Reuters said.

The latest examples cited were Atlantic Richfield and Phillips Petroleum, which went further into debt to buy back substantial quantities of their shares traded on Wall Street.

Mr. Paul Milotok, an analyst with stockbrokers Salomon Brothers, said this higher debt gave the firms "less room to manoeuvre."

This is the latest twist in a long-running saga that started earlier in the decade when sagging world oil prices began to squeeze profits and made oil companies vulnerable to takeovers.

Spending on exploration for new oilfields has also been cut.

Atlantic Richfield, the sixth biggest U.S. oil company, announced earlier this month it would spend \$4 billion buying back a third of its shares as part of a major restructuring.

Phillips Petroleum, 10th in the industry league table, plans to spend \$4.5 billion to buy back half its shares in a bid for future independence after fighting off a hostile takeover bid from leading corporate raider T. Boone Pickens.

This latest upheaval in the industry follows a spate of major takeovers and mergers over the last four years, which were seen as producing economies that would boost financial results.

But the continuing slide of oil prices on the world spot market has highlighted how vulnerable the oil giants remain.

Reverberations from these earlier deals were accentuated last week with an announcement by Mobil, the second largest U.S. oil firm, that it was to sell off its Montgomery Ward retail chain and write off \$500 million in after-tax costs.

This was seen on Wall Street as inevitable following the poor performance of Montgomery Ward and the debt piled up by Mobil last year, when it paid \$5.7 billion — more than half financed by new debt — to buy Superior Oil.

Other recent acquisitions in the industry paid for by increased borrowing include:

— Occidental Petroleum's takeover of Cities Service Co. for \$4

billion in 1982, with 63 per cent of the cost paid for in new debt for Occidental.

— Gulf Oil's acquisition of Chevron in 1984 for \$13.2 billion, 55 per cent of it paid for through debt.

— Royal Dutch/Shell's purchase in 1984 of the outstanding stock of Shell oil for \$5.7 billion, 47 per cent of it paid for through new debt.

Mr. Mark Gilman, oil analyst with E.F. Hutton, described the Atlantic Richfield restructuring as "inappropriate".

He explained that as the price of oil drops, Atlantic Richfield's assets become less valuable and it makes less sense economically for the company to add to its debt.

Phillips Petroleum's \$4.5 billion share buyback was far from appropriate, given the forecast for lower oil prices, he added.

Analysts said if companies wanted to restructure their operations, the last thing they should do was

restrict flexibility by raising debt obligations unnecessarily.

The mogul's problems have been exacerbated by stockmarket investors questioning oil companies' exploration programmes, seen by industry analysts as essential for future oil supplies.

Mr. Robert Stobaugh, Harvard University professor of business administration, said: "The market is saying it does not believe some of the exploration and production projects are justified and would prefer to see the money paid to shareholders."

Atlantic Richfield earlier this month, increased its dividend payments to shareholders to \$4 a share from \$1.

Scope for higher dividends for existing shareholders had been highlighted by the wave of hostile takeover bids and has now been used by firms to buy shareholders' loyalty, possibly at the expense of future exploration, according to some analysts.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning is good for getting your ideas in order so you will be able to make them work for you in a well-rounded fashion. Later you can put into motion some of the actual details.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Make plans for far into the future early and then plan now to get out of difficulties that may be confusing you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Fine friends can be helpful with new plans you have in the morning, but later don't rely on others for assistance.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get early start on work ahead of you and accomplish a great deal in the morning; but later don't push anything.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A good morning to get that new interest started and then sit back and watch how it works out.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You can get some business affairs handled very easily and quickly in the morning, but later other affairs require more thought.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Come to a fine understanding with an associate in the morning, but later don't make changes or trouble can start.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) The morning begins very constructively, but later problematical affairs come up that require much attention.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Early make appointments of a social nature and then get busy on something creative and practical. Come to an understanding with your mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If promises have been made to kin, be sure to keep them this morning. Avoid extravagant entertainment later in the day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Early handle correspondence and communicate well with others so you get much done, efficiently. Clear up any misunderstandings at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Morning is best time to handle monetary affairs well, since later some odd situation may arise to cause you trouble.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You get fine ideas how best to advance in your career in the morning, so carry through with them right away, and later relax.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be able to nicely blend the idealistic with the practical and get amazing results, so encourage this early.

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon

ACROSS

- Where Jakarta is
- Where Valletta is
- Singer Lane
- Translucent
- Constellation
- Lack of means
- Deadly nightshade
- Pleasant
- King of Persia
- Apt to vary
- Cargo ship
- Plant
- Quarrying
- Solar disk
- Landmark of politics
- Kitchen appliances
- Grass used for hay
- Narrow inlet
- Stormy
- ballerina
- Headliner
- Building wing
- Xabac and dhow
- In every direction
- Cover girls
- Came up
- Yutong
- Very large quantities
- Balding chamber
- Famous
- One skilled in a trade
- Woolly
- Camp beds
- Campanile
- Short jacket
- "— on Rose"
- Settlement in Greenland
- Exc. capital
- Indiana
- Valley

DOWN

- Chore
- Tip
- Farewell, Britus
- 41 Talbot
- 42 Office worker
- 43 Assamite
- 44 Pt. river
- 45 Koller's head
- 46 Maple genus
- 47 Low voice
- 48 Office worker
- 49 Assamite
- 50 Pt. river
- 51 Koller's head
- 52 Maple genus
- 53 News section for short
- 54 Beer
- 55 Slender bottle
- 56 On time
- 57 That girl

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. JABOT 2. BELL 3. BIAN 4. ALICE 5. BALAT 6. BIAL 7. BELLA 8. BUBBER 9. BICAP 10. EQUIL 11. HAN 12. ACTUAL 13. FASTEST 14. MODAL 15. MOLES 16. TAU 17. ANDY 18. PAINED 19. BAKE 20. STU 21. RITNIS 22. COIES 23. EXPLOSIVE 24. BOOBY 25. THUNDERBOLT 26. SPT 27. ROVE 28. BRON 29. VOQUE 30. ABEL 31. SICH 32. EDUCE 33. MOAS 34. ZISIT 35. BIEKIS

Peanuts



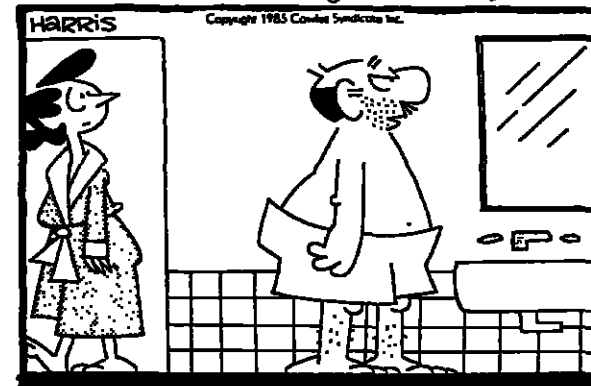
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LOBAT

BAFLE

HOGUNE

GODINI

WHAT POSITION DOES A MONSTER PLAY ON A HOCKEY TEAM?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXULT TYING MAROON POLICE

Answer: How society girls start in— BY COMING "OUT"

Gandhi, citing foreign links in bombings, vows tough action

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Monday there was a foreign link to a Sikh extremist bomb campaign and announced plans for tougher anti-terrorist laws.

Mr. Gandhi described the weekend bombings which killed 86 people in New Delhi and the surrounding states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan as acts of cowardice and desperation.

"There is involvement (of a foreign hand). You know it. We know it. But it does not help... pretending as though it is the only problem," Mr. Gandhi told parliament.

Extremists struck again in Punjab state Monday, wounding two Gandhi supporters, while in the capital police fired in the air to break up an opposition strike at the blasts and a bomb was found in the Home (Interior) Ministry.

The 40-year-old prime minister told the Lower House of Parliament, "we have to show guts to isolate terrorists from everybody. We need help from everybody."

He said that on Tuesday or Wednesday the government "will move an amendment which will seek to counter terrorism."

Mr. Gandhi said the government wants to help the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, to eliminate terrorism. "This is going to take time," he said, "we have to do this with utmost patience and vigilance."

He said the government wants to deal with the Punjab problem on a political level and also with "very rigid action."

"Violence has no place in a society," said Mr. Gandhi, calling the wave of bombings "not an act of courage but an act of cowardice."

He said, "we have to penetrate into the terrorists and flush them out. We have to mobilise public opinion of all regions and all religions to fight this."

Meanwhile, a general strike called by an opposition party on Monday to protest the weekend booby-trap bombings closed markets and businesses in the Indian capital.

The Delhi stock exchange and the bullion market also were closed, but government offices were open. The strike did not affect road transportation.

Police fired in the air and made baton charges to break up several hundred protesters who tried to stop buses and other vehicles defying the strike call.

More than 2,000 Sikh suspects and anti-social elements have been arrested in a continuing crackdown across northern India, authorities said.

The crackdown was ordered after warnings by intelligence agencies that Sikh terrorist attacks are likely to increase in the next three weeks before the June 4-7 anniversary of the assault on the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine.

Three Sikhs, including a local lawyer, were arrested in the capital Sunday in the bombings. The attacks claimed 44 lives in New Delhi, 22 in Uttar Pradesh and 19 in the two other states. Many of the victims were children who picked up transistor radios packed with bombs.

Police press spokesman Ravi Pawar said the three, arrested after a knife fight, were interrogated Monday. He said two of

the men were suspected terrorists from Sikh-dominated Punjab.

The Indian Express newspaper reported Monday that police seized at least one pistol, a large amount of ammunition and bombs like those which were left on buses, in parks and slums in the four states.

The newspaper, quoting a unnamed police source, also said a list of names and addresses and instructions on making bombs were seized from the arrested men.

The Indira Gandhi murder trial started five hours late Monday when the judge did not reach the court on time in a bureaucratic bungle which led to an angry walkout by defence lawyers.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said the official did not receive his notification until 90 minutes after the scheduled 10 a.m. start in a New Delhi jail.

PTI said the trial started at 2.45 p.m. when the three accused briefly appeared before the judge who recorded their presence and then adjourned the case until May 17.

Sarwant Singh, is accused of shooting dead Mrs. Gandhi in a hail of bullets, and of two other Sikhs are charged with conspiracy.

But P.N. Lekhi, Sarwant Singh's defence lawyer, left when the judge and the prosecution failed to arrive in time.

"They now have to give us 24 hours notice before the trial can begin. It's a very surprising development," Mr. Lekhi said.

"We're not going to play hide and a seek with the prosecution," he told reporters as he stormed out of the Tihar jail, where the hearing was scheduled.

Mr. Lekhi handed out a statement from Sarwant Singh condemning the weekend bomb attacks.



JOINT TEAM RETURNS: A joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation headed by Palestinian Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat returns to Amman Monday following talks in Peking with Chinese officials (Petra photo)

ETA blamed for murder of policeman

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AP) — Suspected Basque separatists killed a national policeman and injured a Civil Guard in separate attacks near this northern Basque city, police said Monday.

Police said 29-year-old national policeman Maximo Antonio Garcia Fraile was shot three times in the head as he left his home in the outskirts of this capital of Guipuzcoa province. Police said two witnesses reported that three persons, two men and one woman, fled the scene on foot.

In a separate attack, a civil Guard was slightly injured when a bomb placed under his car exploded at nearby town of Mondragon Monday, police said.

Police believe the attackers in both cases were members of the Basque separatist organisation, ETA.

Police said they found spent shells of the ammunition usually used by ETA near the scene of the policeman's killing.

7 injured in explosion near New Caledonia school

NOUMEA (R) — Seven people were injured in an explosion in the capital of France's troubled South Pacific territory of New Caledonia, police said Monday.

They said the blast occurred near a school in central Noumea. About 50 students at the private school were in a study room when the blast occurred, blowing out windows of the school and nearby buildings.

Police said eyewitnesses claimed they saw a man get out of a car, put a parcel in the school entrance and light something, apparently a fuse.

At least 23 people have been killed in New Caledonia since last November in violence linked to demands by political parties of the minority native Melanesians for independence from France.

Unrest swept Noumea last Wednesday between pro-and anti-independence forces, and High Commissioner Edgar Pisani reimposed a curfew he had lifted only days earlier. The curfew had been set from 8 p.m. to dawn. A few hours before the explosion, he changed it to 11 p.m. to dawn.

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Ortega sets terms for sending Cubans home

MADRID (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, whose country has been slapped with a U.S. trade embargo, said Sunday he would send home 700 Cuban military advisers if other Central American nations would make similar moves.

In an interview with the Spanish national news agency, EFE, Mr. Ortega said there were no Soviet military advisers in Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan leader is on a European tour to muster support in the face of the embargo.

He said 100 Cuban advisers had already left Nicaragua, leaving another 700 military advisers and 700 technical assistance experts.

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American warship visit to China is 'called off'

PEKING (R) — A proposed visit by U.S. warships to Shanghai, expected to take place this month, seems certain to be cancelled, Western diplomats said Monday.

Peking agreed in August to the first U.S. naval visit to Shanghai since 1949. But the plans caused controversy last month when Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang and a senior aide said Washington had undertaken not to send nuclear-armed or powered ships.

The remarks were in direct contrast to Washington's refusal to promise its ally New Zealand not to send nuclear ships there and United States later denied it had given such a guarantee.

Western diplomats, who asked not to be named, said the visit, which U.S. officials had expected to happen on around May 18, would be called off or postponed indefinitely.

Asked Monday whether the long-awaited visit had been called off, one senior envoy said: "Yes, that is my understanding."

A U.S. embassy spokesman said he could not comment.

One diplomat said the U.S. navy had kept three successive sets of U.S. ships on standby during the protracted talks to make the call as soon as negotiators gave the go-ahead.

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Korean gift to White House is missing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thirty-nine years ago this month, in a ceremony at the White House, a 900-year-old vase was presented to the people of the United States as a gesture of thanks from Korea for that country's liberation from the Japanese.

The American people seem to have lost the vase. "Very, very few things stay here in the White House that are gifts from foreign groups," said Betty Monksman, associate White House curator.

"The Truman Library should have a record of it," said the library in Independence, Missouri, established to house papers and memorabilia of U.S. President Harry S. Truman, who received the vase on behalf of the American people, could not locate it.

Gregory Henderson, a research associate at the Korean Institute of Harvard University's Fairbanks Centre for East Asian Studies, said he checked with Truman's daughter, Margaret Truman Daniel, and she doesn't know where it is either.

Henderson said Mrs. Daniel asked her mother, Bess Truman, before her death, and Mrs. Truman didn't know. Bauske said he consulted U.S. National Park Service officials, who operate the Truman's home in Independence as a memorial, and the vase is not there, either.

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Thatcher promises probe into stadium fire

BRADFORD, England (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has promised a full inquiry to establish the cause of a fire which swept through a stand in this northern city's football stadium, killing at least 52 people.

With only a few of the dead identified and Bradford still in a state of shock, a local fire chief said he had notified Bradford City Football Club six months ago that the 69-year-old wooden grandstand, which was completely burned to the ground, was unsafe.

Club Chairman Stafford Hegginbotham denied he had been warned and said the stand was as safe as the club's means allowed.

Police said they were keeping an open mind on the cause of the blaze and could not rule out the possibility of arson.

Mrs. Thatcher's promise of a full investigation came in a television interview Sunday night. "I have been in touch with the home secretary and I can say that everything is being done to find out the cause of the fire," she said.

She added the government would also study whether the football ground was adequately covered by safety legislation.

Bradford, a city of 300,000 people, flew its official flags at half-staff in mourning as messages poured in expressing sympathy from Queen Elizabeth II, Pope John Paul II, Mrs. Thatcher and

other British political leaders.

Only one of the 52 fatalities had been identified Sunday. 86-year-old Samuel Firih of Bradford, founder of the soccer team's supporters' club and honoured with a life ticket to the stadium.

He was the only person who died in a hospital. The 51 other bodies were all taken from the ruins of the wooden grandstand.

The blaze swept through the packed stand on Saturday as Bradford City were playing their last match of the season after capturing their first championship title in 48 years.

Some spectators, their clothes on fire, stumbled to safety on the playing field, while others burned to death in their seats and more struggled in vain to get out through doors locked to prevent latecomers slipping in without paying.

More than 200 were admitted to hospitals and 17 were still there Monday, some in critical condition.

He said 70 people had still to be accounted for but the list was decreasing as police traced many originally reported missing. Most of the dead were thought to be children or old people.

Meanwhile forensic experts continued the grisly task of attempting to identify the dead.

Undercover police kill 22 suspects in Philippines

MANILA (R) — Undercover police squads ordered to shoot robbers on sight have killed 22 people suspected of staging a string of holdups on Manila's "jeepney" minibuses, a Philippine security official said Monday.

Acting Metropolitan Command Chief Victor Natividad told reporters plainclothes police riding on the jeepneys shot the 22 and wounded two more during gun battles after commuters were robbed. Two policemen were killed, two seriously injured, and 59 other people arrested over the

past two weeks.

But district police chief Narciso Cabrera denied the squads, known as "crimbusters," were vigilantes.

Lawyers have criticised the special squads, saying some suspected robbers had been summarily executed.

Last year, about 1,000 military and police "marshals" on similar missions killed 25 suspects in one week. President Ferdinand Marcos ordered their withdrawal after people protested at marshals carrying guns in buses.

Convicted 'rapist' released after 'victim' says she lied

CHICAGO (Agencies) — Gary Dotson, who spent six years in jail for a rape his accuser now says never happened, was ordered freed Sunday by Illinois Governor James Thompson.

But Mr. Thompson made it clear he was not ruling whether the 28-year-old high school drop-out was guilty or innocent. And he said he believed that Mr. Dotson's accuser, Cathleen Webb, was in fact raped by someone in 1977 as she originally claimed.

Mr. Thompson ordered Mr. Dotson's 25 to 50-year prison sentence commuted as of Sunday to time served, meaning that Mr. Dotson is a free man.

"This has nothing to do with guilt or innocence," Mr. Thompson said, but he said "no good purpose would be served," by revoking Mr. Dotson's bond and sending him back to prison.

The 1979 jury verdict that Ms. Webb had been raped at age 16 two years earlier was correct. Mr.

Thompson said, adding that he did not believe Ms. Webb's recanted testimony.

Ms. Webb, now a New Hampshire housewife and mother of two, has said her born-again Christian beliefs prompted her to change her story in March of this year. She said she made up the original story to cover up an affair with a teen-aged boyfriend which she feared had left her pregnant.

Mr. Dotson, from his home in suburban Chicago, said Mr. Thompson "did what he thought was correct. I'll accept it."

Mr. Thompson said the commutation of the sentence was contingent on future good behaviour by Mr. Dotson. As the state's highest elected official, he had the options of commuting Mr. Dotson's sentence, granting him a pardon on grounds of innocence or returning him to prison.

Mr. Dotson was released on \$100,000 bond May 1 while his case was being appealed.

British prince opens new Falklands airfield

PORT STANLEY (Agencies) — Prince Andrew Sunday officially opened a new Falkland Islands airfield which Britain has said will cement its links with the disputed colony.

The decision to build the Mount Pleasant airfield with its three kilometre runway on a desolate bog, 50 kilometres west of Port Stanley, was taken after the 1982 Falklands conflict with Argentina, which claims the South Atlantic archipelago.

The Argentine government has described the construction of the £395-million (\$488 million) air-strip as an act of aggression.

At Sunday's ceremony, which was also attended by Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine and other ministers, Prince Andrew called the airfield "possibly the biggest single step ever taken in

the Falklands' history".

"I am optimistic and I think that we can be confident that these marvellous islands over which I have spent many happy hours flying recently will flourish and develop," said the prince. Queen Elizabeth's second son and a Falklands war veteran who is again on active duty as a naval helicopter pilot.

Mr. Heseltine, who arrived in the islands earlier Sunday for the opening, said the airport "demonstrates the government's commitment to defend the right of those who live in these islands to live in peace and security under a government of their choosing."

Between Britain and Argentina since the 1982 war when a British task force expelled Argentine troops who had briefly occupied the islands.

Little effects reported from Bangladesh strike

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Few effects were reported Monday from a half-day nationwide general strike called by the mainstream opposition to protest coming rural elections, but police said a teen-age boy was killed by a bomb in the port city of Chittagong.

A series of bomb explosions was believed linked to the call for a dawn to midday strike to protest elections for rural subdistricts scheduled for May 16 and 20.

Chittagong police said the boy was killed Sunday when a bomb exploded near a car in which he was riding. They said the driver escaped unhurt.

Witnesses reported at least 20 people hurt in bomb and firecracker explosions in Dhaka

Sunday night.

On Monday morning, traffic on Dhaka streets was thin, with most private cars and buses remaining off the roads. Attendance at government and commercial offices was slightly less than normal.

A senior leader of the 15-party alliance, which joined a seven-party alliance in calling the strike, telephoned the Associated Press to say response to the strike call was encouraging.

Political activities have been banned since March 1 under martial law reimposed by President Hossain Mohammad Ershad. The two main opposition leaders — Begum Khaleda Zia and Mrs. Hasina Wajed — are under government protective custody.

In his speech Sunday, Mr. Heseltine stressed the airfield's role in supporting the British 3,000 servicemen on the island.

"The capability it will provide to reinforce the garrison rapidly in case of an emergency will greatly enhance our ability to defend the islands and to ensure that the tragic events of 1982 are never repeated," he said.

But this was not incompatible with Britain's wish to restore normal relations with Argentina, which was in the interest of all concerned, including the islanders, he said.

The complex, which is surrounded by shops, a post office and recreational and medical facilities, was built in record time by 2,300 men and women who began work on the site only 16 months ago.

Brandt's party scores major triumph

BONN (R) — West Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD) have scored a major triumph in state elections which provided little comfort for Chancellor Helmut Kohl halfway through his four-year term in office.

The SPD increased its hold on West Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia, after elections for a new state parliament Sunday, taking 52.1 per cent of the vote, according to preliminary official results.